

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF REVEREND TYRONE
CHESS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Tyrone Chess for his exceptional service as pastor and founder of Holy Ghost Tabernacle Ministries in Jersey City, New Jersey. Rev. Chess was honored on November 3, 2002, at Holy Ghost Tabernacle's Ninth Annual Anniversary Banquet held at the Marriott International in Newark, New Jersey.

A native of Jersey City, born there in 1956, Rev. Chess has devoted his life to the improvement of his community. Having been a pastor for nine years, Rev. Chess now serves as the social and political chairperson of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and in the past served as its second vice president. His passion for the well being of humankind led him to participate as a member and chairperson of the Human Rights Commission. Presently, he is a member of the Jersey City Board of Adjustments, and founder and CEO of the Lincoln Center Community Development, Inc.

Reverend Chess began his religious education at Essex County College, and continued his studies at the American Fellowship Seminary. He recently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from the Adonai Temple Christian Center Bible Institute.

Rev. Chess is married to Martha Chess and they are the proud parents of five children: Daarina, Thaddeus, Tyrone, Jr., Safiyah, and Zaynah.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Tyrone Chess for his many years of dedicated service as a pastor and mentor to the Jersey City community. The Reverend's selfless contributions to the community have not gone unnoticed; without a doubt, he is one of New Jersey's most outstanding religious leaders.

HONORING MORGAN WOOTTEN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Morgan Wootten has been changing the lives of young men in the Washington area for the last half century. Last month, Mr. Wootten, the head basketball coach at DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, MD, since 1956, announced his retirement.

Coach Wootten finished his career with 1,274 wins, 44 consecutive seasons with 20 or more wins, 33 Catholic league championships, 16 city titles, and five national championships. Under Coach Wootten, DeMatha finished the season ranked No. 1 in the area, a record 22

times. More than a dozen of his players have gone on to play in the NBA, 150 have received college basketball scholarships, and more than 20 are currently coaching basketball at some level. And two years ago, the all-time winningest high school basketball coach in America was inducted into the basketball Hall of Fame.

But numbers do not tell the story of Morgan Wootten, nor the impact he has had on the lives of those young men he has coached at DeMatha. He is most remembered by his players, and the students in his history classes, for the lessons he taught them about life. Coach Wootten preached to his players the importance of God, family, school and basketball, in that order. His true value is measured in the professional and personal success of those he has taught and coached, and by the number of former players and students who have remained close to him over the years.

Mr. Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt said that "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." Morgan Wootten has educated several generations of young men in both mind and morals, and I offer him my warmest congratulations on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING
CITIZENSHIP AND WORK OF MR.
BILL COLE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Bill Cole, an outstanding citizen of Northern Virginia.

Mr. Cole has completed an exceptional career that has positively impacted our community. As a retired Army Officer with 28 years of service, Mr. Cole's last assignment was with the Department of Defense in helicopter research and development. While holding a master's degree in public administration, Mr. Cole currently works for William W. Cole & Associates, a business consulting firm he formed in 1992. Mr. Cole has also served as General Manager of Capital Lighting & Supply, Inc, an electrical distributor, for 18 years. Concurrently, he was co-owner and Vice President of Shannon Builders, a residential construction company, from 1978–1982.

Perhaps one of Mr. Cole's most important contributions to the community was his service as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, an all-volunteer organization that is committed to the protection of "The Downzoned Occoquan Watershed" and the drinking water that it provides. Mr. Cole formed the Occoquan Watershed Coalition in the fall of 1994 and on December 7, 1994, the coalition was recognized as an official organization.

Bill Cole's efforts have motivated others to dedicate their time and energy to improving

quality of life for others. He is that rare individual who cares more about doing good than getting credit.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend this recognition to Mr. Bill Cole. His contributions to Virginia and his community have been great. Virginia is proud to have such a distinguished citizen in its professional and social community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding him for all that he has done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BLOOD
OF THE MARTYRS—MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. BLOOD DRIVE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Blood of the Martyrs—Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive and its sponsors, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing, the American National Red Cross, and the National Black Catholic Congress. This very important blood drive will take place from January 15–22, 2003 as part of National Blood Donor Month.

The Second Annual Blood of the Martyrs—Martin Luther King, Jr. blood drive in 2002 was met with a response of nearly 650 donors, who donated a total of 520 pints. These pints provided a supply of 2,080 blood units to be used for patients needs. I offer heartfelt thanks to all those who gave last year and contributed to this wonderful turnout.

The goal for this year's drive is 1205 productive units of blood which will result in blood supplies for nearly 5000 people. I encourage everyone who is able to donate blood, to do so for this worthy cause—it may be you who saves a life!

Mr. Speaker, at this time in our Nation's History, when our President is encouraging all Americans to serve a purpose greater than themselves, when we must rely on our neighbors, I can think of a few ways to better serve our fellow Americans than by giving the gift of life, by donating blood.

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE
OF HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Urban League of Hudson County for its efforts to revive communities throughout Hudson County, and to congratulate it upon the completion of its new headquarters on Martin Luther King Drive in Jersey City, NJ. To commemorate this event, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 18, 2002, at the site of the new headquarters.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Urban League of Hudson County is an organization that has stood for human advancement and achievement, and has worked tirelessly to develop and revitalize our urban areas. Its work has given hope and fortune to so many who call the inner city their home.

Project Reclaim is an Urban League initiative created for the redevelopment of the twenty-six block radius of Martin Luther King Drive in the Ward F community of Jersey City. The new headquarters building is a cornerstone of the Urban League's plan to initiate an economic and social renaissance in this community. And with the community's participation, this renaissance will be a lasting and inspiring model for the country.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Urban League of Hudson County for providing hope to countless families, and for believing in America by investing and revitalizing our urban areas, when others turned their backs on our cities. The Urban League's accomplishments have paved the way for prosperous and healthy communities throughout New Jersey.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Westlands Water District of Huron, CA, on the occasion of celebrating 50 years of dedication and service to the communities of the San Joaquin Valley of California on Sunday, November 17, 2002. The 50th anniversary celebration will take place at Harris Ranch in Coalinga, CA.

Farming in the Westlands Water District began during California's Gold Rush era. The first significant irrigation in the Westlands area began about 1915 with the drilling of deep wells by individual operators on large acreages. In 1942, the Westside Landowners Association was established to urge and help finance studies on the feasibility of developing and constructing water supply systems to serve the west side. In 1952, the owners of 400,000 acres of westside land petitioned the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for the formation of the water district. On September 8, 1952, the Westlands Water District was formed.

Westlands is one of the largest agricultural water districts in the United States, with more than 570,000 irrigated acres of diversified crops on some of the most productive soil in the world. Westlands provides water to nearly 600 family-owned farms that average 850 acres in size. Farms within Westlands produce approximately \$1 billion worth of food and fiber per year. This translates into \$3.5 billion in farm related economic activity, nearly one-third of the \$12.5 billion generated by the agriculture-based economy of Fresno County. In addition to food and fiber, Westlands farmers produce jobs, taxes, and strong economic core for the regional economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Westlands Water District of Central California on the occasion of their 50th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Westlands Water District many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. MARTIN EICHELBERGER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Eichelberger is a Professor of Surgery and of Pediatrics at George Washington University and Director of Emergency Trauma and Burn Service at the Children's National Medical Center, in Washington, DC. He is also president and cofounder of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, and a nationally recognized pediatric trauma surgeon.

The reason Dr. Eichelberger is so highly regarded became evident on Monday, October 7, when he was called out of a skin graft surgery to begin preparing for a 13-year-old shooting victim who was on his way to Children's Hospital from the Bowie Health Center. The boy had been shot by the Washington-area snipers in front of Benjamin Tasker Middle School, and the dozens of fragments from the sniper's bullet had done extensive and life-threatening damage to a number of the boy's vital organs.

Dr. Eichelberger and his team immediately began to make critical decisions about which organs could be saved, and which ones were beyond repair and needed to be removed. The right decisions were made, and the two and a half hour operation saved the boy's life. Although this brave young man faces a long and challenging road to recovery, I am pleased to report that he has been released from the hospital, and I am hopeful that he will in fact make a full recovery from his injuries.

Mr. Speaker, this 13-year-old young man is one of the countless youngsters who have been touched by the gifts of Mr. Eichelberger and whose lives have been saved or made better by his compassionate dedication to public service. The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give." I am proud to say that in Dr. Eichelberger, we have given Washington area youngsters the best we have.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DUNCAN A. HOLADAY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Duncan Holaday upon his retirement after 35 years of devoted service in support of our great Nation. His last position was with the Department of the Navy, where he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities.

Mr. Holaday was born on February 15, 1943 in Berkeley, CA. He graduated from Beloit College in 1965 with a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy. In 1976, he received a master of business administration degree from Syracuse University.

Mr. Holaday began his Government service with the U.S. Army in 1967 as a management intern. Following completion of his training, he

spent the next 15 years as an operations research analyst with the Army, serving both in the Pentagon and in Europe as well as with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation. While in this position at OSD, Mr. Holaday was responsible for analyzing Army and Marine Corps force structure, force basing, military construction, and manpower requirements.

From 1982 to 1987, Mr. Holaday served as a director in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations. It was there that he implemented the Model Installation Program, which was a highly successful test of the proposition that base commanders could do a better job of running their bases when freed of restraints imposed by headquarters. While at OSD, he also developed and implemented DOD-wide real property and base utilization policies.

He later served as the Director of the Defense Acquisition Regulatory System under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition between 1987 and 1990. From 1990 to early 1993, he was the Executive Director of the Defense Ethics Council.

After leaving the Office of the Secretary of Defense in April 1993 and before joining the Department of the Navy in 1994, Mr. Holaday worked with then Vice President Al Gore on the National Performance Review, NPR. There, he was responsible for improving real property acquisition and management within the Federal Government and oversaw government-wide implementation of NPR recommendations for downsizing and streamlining the Federal workforce.

In October, 1994, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Installations and Facilities. As the Deputy Assistant Secretary, he was responsible for establishing policy and improving oversight on the Department of the Navy's acquisition, construction, use, management, operation, and disposal of real estate, facilities, and housing at Navy and Marine Corps bases worldwide.

During the transition in administrations, between January and August, 2001, he served as the Senior Civilian Official in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment. As Senior Civilian Official, he was directly responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the formulation of Department-wide policies and procedures, and for overseeing all Department of the Navy functions and programs relating to environmental protection; Navy and Marine Corps facilities and installations; housing; long-range basing and infrastructure requirements; and safety and occupational health for military and civilian personnel. In this role, he provided stability and continuity during the absence of three presidentially-appointed political appointees.

His accomplishments throughout his career, and especially while serving in the Department of the Navy, are extraordinary. He has worked tirelessly to promote investment in the facilities where sailors and marines live, work, and train. He was at the forefront of the Department's efforts to improve military family housing through the innovative use of privatization authorities allowing partnership with the private sector. During his stewardship, the Department of the Navy was able to realize over \$600 million in investment in Navy and Marine Corps family housing, using only slightly over \$100 million of its own resources.

To every problem and challenge he has faced, he has brought keen insight and attention to detail that has enabled thoughtful solutions. He demonstrated extraordinary environmental stewardship in successfully shepherding the transfer of land on the western end of Vieques within the timeframes specified by law. He has successfully engaged in the extremely complicated task of negotiations and agreements, allowing the Department to convey base closure property for redevelopment by local communities.

Mr. Holaday has left a remarkable legacy. The hallmark of his service, throughout his career, has been improved living and working conditions for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve our country so bravely, day after day. He has been steadfast in his service to this great nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. His superb performance has won him countless awards, including the Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2001. His leadership will be sorely missed. I for one am extremely grateful that he chose to enter public service.

I wish to recognize and thank him for his honorable service and would like to join with his many friends and colleagues, both within the executive branch and here in Congress, in wishing him fair winds and following seas as he and his wife, Mary Margaret, and son, Duncan, continue forward in what most assuredly will remain a life of service to this great Nation.

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH HIRD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most generous and giving community members I have had the pleasure of knowing. In life, Elizabeth Hird was beloved by all of those whose lives she touched—a true community treasure.

An artist, community leader and active conservationist, Elizabeth was a pioneer in the local efforts for environmental preservation and education—dedicating her time and energies to ensure that our natural resources would be protected for future generations to enjoy. A founding member, and later, director and president of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust, Elizabeth worked hard to make the public aware of all nature could teach them. She was instrumental in the creation of the Platt Nature Center for environmental education which offers programs throughout the summer to young children. Through these programs, children are able to participate in a variety of activities where they learn to identify the wild flowers and wild life of the area. At part of the last days activities, children were invited to Outer Island, one of the Thimble Islands off the Connecticut coastline, where Elizabeth and her late husband, Basil Rauch, owned a home. Elizabeth hosted the event and children were encouraged to explore the island and the many creatures which call the island home. A unique experience for so many, children of all ages looked forward to this special opportunity.

In 1995, in honor of her husband, Elizabeth donated Outer Island to the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service to become an environmental research and education center and part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Today, students of all ages, from elementary to graduate school, have access to the island and the endless lessons it provides. It was just over one year ago that I joined Elizabeth to announce the establishment of the Outer Island Endowment Fund—a renewed commitment to the preservation of Outer Island, its diverse wildlife, and educational opportunities for our community's young people. In speaking to Elizabeth that day, I knew that her dream for Outer Island had been realized and I was proud to join in the celebration of her vision.

I am honored to stand today in memory of Elizabeth Hird and express my deepest thanks and appreciation for all that she has given to our community. Elizabeth was truly a unique individual who has left an indelible mark on our community. Hers is a legacy which will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as it hosted the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference (ETCC), which was held November 1–3, 2002, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Despite the many advancements made by Hispanics in the fields of engineering and science, we must continue to ensure equality in the work force for all Americans. The ETCC has made this its focus and, since 1987, has been promoting academic excellence, professional growth, technical opportunities, and the development of ties and connections among Hispanic professionals. These valuable networking opportunities for students and professionals are necessary to promote and provide for a more just work environment.

The second largest Hispanic student engineering conference in the nation, the ETCC attracts over 50 universities along the East Coast. This year, the ETCC is expecting 1,200 Latino college students majoring in math, science, and engineering, and 300 professionals and corporate representatives from Fortune 500 companies to attend.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference hosted by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. New Jersey is fortunate to have organizations that provide opportunities for students and professionals to explore what being Hispanic and being a professional can mean. My best wishes for a successful conference.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT LOUIS PAUL RUSSO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished FBI agent from the Bureau's Detroit Division on the occasion of his retirement. On June 28, 1971 Louis Paul Russo entered on duty as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On October 1, 1971 SA Russo reported to the Detroit Division. Director J. Edgar Hoover transferred SAA Russo from Detroit, to the Lansing Resident Agency beginning January 11, 1972. On December 21, 1972 SA Russo was transferred to the Cincinnati Division. SA Russo served in Cincinnati for over 16 years before he was reassigned to Detroit arriving on October 2, 1989.

SA Russo successfully worked a broad spectrum of cases including, Bank Robberies, Civil Rights, Auto Theft, Labor Violations, Fugitives, Counter Intelligence, and Organized Crime. Agent Russo spent his entire career as what is commonly called a "street agent." Street agents are the agents that solve the cases, make our neighborhoods safe, and protect these United States from our enemies; foreign and domestic, all at a great personal sacrifice to themselves and their families.

I am aware from Agent Russo's co-workers that right up to his last days "on the rolls", Special Agent Russo came to work early, poured over his files, "hit the streets" and got the job done. After September 11, 2001 SA Russo, while attending to his other cases, enthusiastically reengineered himself to transition with the Bureau in their new focus on the investigation of Terrorism, all with more energy and sense of purpose than most agents 30 years younger than he.

I have heard him affectionately referred to as a "one man squad". Agent Russo was always going above and beyond. I am aware of an instance where Agents on the organized crime squad in Detroit where assigned to fan out across the Motor City looking for evidence of construction equipment thefts that had allegedly occurred many years earlier; all to verify the credibility of a witness. They were only looking for evidence that such thefts had been reported; so many years had gone by, any leads were certain to be cold. The agents one by one returned at the end of the day with the various proofs that these pieces of equipment had in fact been reported stolen. Agent Russo also came back to the office with police reports to verify the long ago reported thefts and with a backhoe and other heavy equipment in tow, he had not only verified the thefts, he had recovered the stolen property. SA Russo has received letters of commendation from every Director that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever had. SA Russo consistently received top job performance reviews and he has garnered many letters of appreciation from Assistant United States Attorneys. Most importantly, SA Russo has earned and kept the respect of every agent he has ever served with. He has diligently protected the citizens of the great State of Michigan and the citizens of this great nation with enthusiasm, dedication and pride.

Special Agent Russo exemplifies the finest traditions of the FBI and of the Bureau's motto of "Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity". His efforts and his example have made the FBI the enduring and honorable institution that it is. He will be missed when he retires December 31, 2002, having served for over 31 years as a Special Agent. From this former Special Agent, on behalf of the State of Michigan and this Nation; thank you, Louis Paul Russo.

HONORING DR. ALICIA JUARRERO:
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alicia Juarrero, a professor of philosophy at Prince George's Community College, who is being honored by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching and The Council for Advancement and Support of Education as the Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year.

Dr. Juarrero at Prince George's Community College, located in my congressional district in Largo, Maryland. She has been nationally recognized among her community college colleagues as the best of the best. Dr. Juarrero's accomplishments speak to the caliber of professors at the community college level. Often times the invaluable work of our community college professors goes unrecognized, so it is especially rewarding for a local professor from my district to receive such an honorable award.

Dr. Juarrero earned her undergraduate degree, master's and Ph.D from the University of Miami. She has been a professor at Prince George's Community College since 1975. Dr. Juarrero starts each semester with great zeal, beginning with a quote from Plato: "Thinking is the talking of the soul with itself." She has been called a "teacher's teacher," often serving as a great resource for her fellow colleagues.

It is truly an honor to have Dr. Juarrero as a professor at Prince George's Community College. She is a great reflection of a tremendous institution. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a gifted and highly respected teacher.

TRIBUTE TO BROOKINGS FELLOW
ROBERT M. HARTT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and gratitude to Mr. Robert M. Hartt. Recently, Mr. Hartt has ended a six-month fellowship with the Brookings Institution and will be returning to his position at the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

While working in my office, Mr. Hartt brought an aspect to disabilities issues that shed a new light to legislation and office policies. Mr. Hartt passionately used his personal

experiences as a man with a vision impairment to ensure improvements be set forth in computer software, educational textbooks and healthcare for all individuals with disabilities. His advocacy and strength instilled a renewed hope that one day our nation will have equality for all people.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Hartt for his exceptional hard work for the residents of Illinois 7th Congressional District and America's disability community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CATHERINE
E. TODD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Catherine E. Todd, who passed away on June 26, 2002. On Wednesday, November 6, 2002, the Jersey City Housing Authority held a dedication ceremony in her memory at the Montgomery Gardens Community Center in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Born on October 10, 1938, Catherine led a life of selfless dedication to those in need. She devoted 48 years of her life to the residents of Montgomery Gardens Housing Complex, contributing both time and energy in assisting residents in every possible way. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the residents of the Jersey City Housing Authority facilitated a sense of community and fostered a sense of home for all.

In 1954, Catherine began her battle on behalf of the residents of Montgomery Gardens. During the 1960s, she rose to positions such as building captain, community organizer, Montgomery Garden's site improvement committee member, and Montgomery Garden's liaison committee member. In 1978, Catherine became the Chairperson of the Montgomery Gardens tenant management corporation board, and regularly met with residents to ensure that their needs were being fulfilled and that they were aware of all programs available to them. In 1996, she was also elected to the office of chairperson of the Jersey City tenant affairs board.

Catherine is survived by her two children, Henry and Jo Ann, and three grandchildren, Hanifah, Sharifah, and Hasan.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Catherine E. Todd for her great concern for the residents of the Jersey City Housing Authority. She extended her heart and her hand to help improve the quality of life for each person she encountered and she will be missed not only by her Jersey City Housing Authority family, but by the entire Jersey City community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM AND SUE
WHEELER, ANGELS IN ADOPTION
HONOREES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Jim and

Sue Wheeler of East Lansing, Michigan, who were chosen as the 2002 8th Congressional Angels in Adoption honorees.

Jim and Sue Wheeler's personal dedication to raising 10 children, several of them adopted, makes them deserving of our respect and admiration.

Each year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute honors families or organizations who have shown a real commitment to improving the lives of children through adoption. Jim and Sue Wheeler are the role model for families who care about children. Their long-range impact on this nation will be felt for decades and generations to come and I was honored to sponsor them for recognition as Angels in Adoption.

The Wheelers are among 140 honorees from the 50 states who were recognized at special ceremonies in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

Jim and Sue Wheeler married in 1984. She was a professor at Michigan State University. "We had an 'ours-mine-yours' relationship," Jim told us. He had two children from a previous marriage and Sue had a daughter from a first marriage. Then they had a child together in 1986 and thought they were through.

But the Wheelers decided they would like to have a larger family and thought maybe there were children out there who needed a home. Since then Jim and Sue have had six more children by adoption through Catholic Social Service of Lansing/St. Vincent Home. Their diverse family of 10 children now represents three races!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this very special couple and their family. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF CHARLES A.
MOOSE

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Montgomery County Police Chief Charles A. Moose for his exemplary work on the investigation of the sniper shootings that recently plagued the Washington Metro Region. I would like to commend Chief Moose for exhibiting great patience and humility amidst the frenzied media coverage, which was marked by excesses and speculation.

Chief Moose exhibited tremendous leadership and excellent teamwork by coordinating with other jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies. Chief Moose directed a multi-agency task force, whose work led to the eventual capture of the sniper suspects. Chief Moose became the public face of the investigation, holding daily press briefings, and consoling the public when a child became a victim of the sniper attacks.

Throughout the sniper shootings, many in the community looked to law enforcement to reassure their ever-present fears. Chief Moose served as a calming and informative spokesman, providing the public with needed information and a community oriented perspective.

Although Chief Moose has just recently come to national attention, he has always been active in the local community and has

received numerous awards for his law enforcement and community activity. Along with his role as Chief of Police, Moose teaches criminology at the local community college, and serves as a Major in the District of Columbia National Air Guard. Chief Moose is clearly a tremendous leader, and an invaluable member of the Montgomery County Police force who has a bright and promising future ahead of him. It is truly an honor to have him serve in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank Chief Charles A. Moose for his work in helping to apprehend the sniper suspects, and returning our community to normal. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing an honorable and professional member of the law enforcement community.

CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITIC
SENTIMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the disturbing rise in and acceptance of Anti-Semitism in the Arab world.

An Egyptian satellite television station recently produced and is currently airing a new series that its producers openly acknowledge is partially based on a century old anti-Semitic tract entitled "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

"The Protocols," which have long been dismissed by historians as false, are a work of fiction fabricated in czarist Russia to perpetuate and justify anti-Semitic violence and persecution. "The Protocols" were a series of 24 documents reportedly written by Jewish leaders that outline a plan for global domination by the Jewish people. They were later used again as anti-Jewish propaganda in Nazi Germany and are still used to this day by neo-Nazis and white-supremacist groups.

The New Egyptian series, entitled "Horse Without a Horseman," is looking to breathe new life back into this cornerstone of anti-Semitic hatred. The 41-episode television series, created specifically to air during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, traces the history of the Middle East from 1855–1917. With a prime evening timeslot, the series is expected to have excellent viewership, as families gather at home to break the daily fast. This puts the series in the unique position to bring anti-Jewish sentiment into millions of homes throughout the Middle East. Israeli and American Embassy officials have raised concerns over the use of the fictional and inflammatory "Protocols" with the Egyptian government, but to no avail.

With the increase in attention given to "The Protocols" in the Arab media, many believe that the imagery present in "Horse without a Horseman" is indicative of the rise in anti-Semitism in the Arab world since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Even here at home, The Arab Voice, a local Arab newspaper in New Jersey, recently printed excerpts from "The Protocols." Despite knowledge that "The Protocols" are forgeries and have been used to incite anti-Jewish hatred and violence, the editors of The Arab Voice called "The Protocols" an "educational tool" for their readers.

The irresponsible decision by The Arab Voice to give credence to "The Protocols" by reprinting the falsehoods in their paper only fuels and further perpetuates the tension between the Arab and Jewish communities. At a time when the American-Arab and Jewish communities could be making an effort to improve communication and cooperation, The Arab Voice's printing of "The Protocols" is both irresponsible and inflammatory.

I ask my colleague to join with me in condemning "Horse without a Horseman." The Arab Voice and any perpetuation of anti-Semitism either abroad or at home. It is critical that we remain vigilant and not allow attempts to spread hatred to be ignored or continued.

HONORING THERESA SIRICO FOR
HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the New Haven community—Theresa Sirico. The founder of the Louis and Joan Sirico Center for Elders and Families at Southern Connecticut State University, Theresa's generosity and compassion will touch the lives of thousands throughout Greater New Haven and millions across the country.

As a child, I knew Louis and Joan Sirico as neighbors and friends, working with my parents to enrich our neighborhood. The Siricos were both active advocates for our families and our community. Much as my own parents, they passed these values to their seven children. Both Louis and Joan suffered strokes, left without the abilities to care for themselves. In both instances, their family members came together to provide them the care they needed through their last days. However, not all are fortunate enough to have families who are willing or able to take on these challenges.

With the "baby boomer" generation approaching retirement age, more and more of our nation's seniors are looking for access to the care and companionship they need and rightly deserve. Theresa Sirico, recognizing the need for increased interest in geriatric care, took action. With a generous donation of a quarter of a million dollars, Theresa started the effort to establish a national model for improving the quality of life for our seniors. With a large anonymous donation, fund-raising efforts, and matching funds from the State Department of Higher Education, Theresa's vision of the Louis and Joan Sirico Center for Elders and Families became a reality.

The Sirico Center combines both undergraduate and graduate studies with hands-on workshops and seminars. Blending the studies of nursing, social work, and public health, the Center will be an invaluable resource for those interested in geriatric care. In a time when our nation is facing an ever increasing senior population and a lack of geriatric health care professionals, the Sirico Center is sure to be an asset not only to the Greater New Haven area, but to communities throughout the nation. The Sirico Center for Elders and Families will not only provide education for health pro-

fessionals, but will generate excitement and interest in the field of geriatric medicine. This is the true gift of Theresa Sirico.

I am honored to rise today to join family, friends, and the staff and faculty of the Louis and Joan Sirico Center for Elders and Families in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation to Theresa Sirico for her outstanding contributions to our community. Seniors and their families will benefit greatly from her unique vision and unparalleled dedication.

HONORING MS. MARILYN MIGLIN
OF CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes today to speak about one of my constituents who is making a most remarkable contribution to the people of Chicago and the entire Midwest. Marilyn Miglin is involved in an extraordinary range of public service activities and maintains a remarkable schedule.

Ms. Miglin originally suggested the notion of an advisory board for the University of Illinois Craniofacial Center in 1987. The Craniofacial Center of the University of Illinois provides medical services for patients with facial deformities.

But Marilyn Miglin went far beyond the offer of a suggestion. She began volunteering time from her busy schedule to assist the physician team at the Craniofacial Center in adding a new dimension to the patient services offered by the Department. She began coming regularly to the center to see patients with facial deformities and to show them how to apply makeup to hide their condition, or to draw attention away from the condition.

Not satisfied with superficial appearance, Ms. Miglin recognized the need to go beyond what one could see at the surface, and reached patients in a deeper and more profound way: helping each individual realize their inner beauty and self worth. Out of this personal growth came the renewed confidence and self assurance necessary to deal with everyday life;

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate Marilyn Miglin for her support and dedication to the patients and staff of the University of Illinois Craniofacial Center.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND RALPH
E. BROWER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Ralph E. Brower for 47 years of outstanding service to our community as a leader and senior pastor at Saint Michael's Methodist Church. Rev. Brower was honored at a banquet at the Casino in the Park in Jersey City, New Jersey, on November 10, 2002.

For the past 47 years, Reverend Ralph E. Brower has been a tireless advocate on behalf of his community and congregation, ensuring that no one in the community is left behind. A true leader, Rev. Brower has served for the past 27 years as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the past 25 years as chaplain for Hudson County. He has served in several city administrations, and is currently the president of the United Black interdenominational Clergy (VBIC) of New Jersey, the state's largest African-American clergy organization.

His selfless actions have not gone unnoticed, and he has been honored by New Jersey's Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of New Jersey, and the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

The fourth of six children, Rev. Brower was born and raised in North Carolina, but decided to make New Jersey his home. He is a graduate of the Laurinburg Institute and Kettle College of North Carolina, attended Florida State Christian College in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Jersey City State College, and his Doctorate of Sacred Theology from the Baltimore Bible College.

Rev. Brown is married to Alberta Hazel Brower, and they are the proud parents of three children: two sons, Ralph, Jr. and Ronald, and one daughter, Denise.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Ralph E. Brower for close to 50 years of service as a leader and senior pastor to the Jersey City community. Let us all join together and take this opportunity to honor an exceptional man, setting an outstanding example for our community. Thank you Rev. Brower for all that you do.

CONGRATULATING J.S. WEST FAMILY AS 2002 AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the J.S. West family for receiving the 2002 Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductee Award at the Stanislaus County Ag Foundation's Agricultural Hall of Fame Ceremony in Modesto, California on December 5, 2002. This notable group of Stanislaus County Legends of Agriculture honors individuals and families who have worked to make agriculture the county's number one industry.

The Agricultural Hall of Fame members sacrifice and labor to produce crops from poultry and livestock to fruits and vegetables. These members and their families have made a mark on the Central Valley's local agricultural industry and community, as well as influenced the state, nation, and the world.

In 1909, J.S. West and Company began with the purchase of the Merced Milling building and a lease of land from the Southern Pacific Railroad in Modesto, California. James West worked with farmers on yearly contracts and sold sacked grain to brokers and customers. As the business grew, the family diversified into coal, wood, and fertilizers. After a fire destroyed the feed mill in the 1950's, a

modern feed mill was built to supply feed to the poultry and cattle industry. This resulted in a full line of retail stores that are now carrying their supplies. The J.S. West family expanded upon their enterprise by making ice, selling fuel oil, operating an automobile service station and tire shop, and they recently closed a furniture store which they had operated since 1950.

The family also developed an egg contracting business in the 1950's, and today its members are still heavily involved in the poultry and egg industry at both state and national levels. The West family packs eggs for over sixty labels and frozen liquid eggs in their Hilmar processing plant. From feed to eggs and ice to propane, the West family continues to make a difference in the agricultural industry worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the J.S. West family for earning the 2002 Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductee Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the J.S. West family many years of continued success.

HONORING THE YALE-NEW HAVEN TEACHERS INSTITUTE ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the New Haven and Yale University communities in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute—a unique and highly successful partnership between the New Haven Public School System and Yale University.

I have often spoke about the importance of education and the vital role it plays in our communities—especially for our urban youth. Today, it is more important than ever for our nation's teachers to have access to the skills and resources they need to prepare our children for the future. That is the mission of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute. For a quarter of a century, the Institute has been providing area educators with the opportunity to strengthen themselves professionally through annual seminars in the humanities and sciences. In addition, the Institute works with program participants to bring the curriculum and lessons of the seminars to the classroom. The teachers who have participated in this program have demonstrated a unique commitment to our young people. These are educators who are truly dedicated to ensuring that our children—our future—have the talented and creative teachers they need and deserve.

Just four years ago, the Institute forged ahead with a new goal. With just over one million dollars in grant funding, the Institute set out to replicate its program in four other cities across the country. This venture has been a success and has proven that the partnerships that are fostered between local public schools and universities can and will enrich the lives of our young people. New Haven has certainly benefited from this tremendous organization which has not only touched the lives of so many teachers, but countless numbers of our children. The Institute has earned a distin-

guished reputation and has been recognized at every level of government as a model for all communities.

For all that they have given to the families and children of New Haven and for all of their good work across the country, I am proud to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary.

THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, the end of a congressional career brings about many emotions. Over the last twenty years I have happily spent representing the fine people of the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of constituents, local, state and federal officials, and many former and current distinguished members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. To all of them I say, thanks for working with me towards a better America.

And, of course, every Member of Congress works with many, many competent staff, from the staff in their own personal offices to the Committee and Subcommittee staff and the leadership and floor staff. It has often been said that without staff where would this institution be? And I concur with that statement, for without the many fine staff with whom I have had good fortune to work, I and other Members of Congress of the United States would be far worse off. While I cannot mention all the fine staff who have worked with me over the years, let me at least mention the current personal and subcommittee staffers who have endeavored to achieve our common goals and to whom I give my hearty thanks and wish them well in their future careers.

In my Harrisburg district office, Arlene Eckels, my long-time personal secretary who has worked for me since the early days in the Pennsylvania State Senate and to whom I wish a happy and much deserved retirement; Tom Templeton, my hardworking district director, who so ably kept my entire district staff working smoothly; Suzanne Stoll, and old friend and superb caseworker; Paul Giannaris, whose ability to handle INS problems has made him invaluable; and Tim Vollrath, a recently returned former employee whose military and veterans help has been superb. In our Lebanon Office, Reg Nyman has been the voice of Lebanon for these many years, and his excellent knowledge and service will be missed. And in our Elizabethtown office, Susan Melendez has kept out Lancaster County constituents well served by her kind and efficient manner. Over the last twenty years my district office staff has handled hundreds of thousands of phone calls and constituent casework requests. A superb record by a superb staff.

My Washington office staff have proven themselves time and time again, regularly going beyond the call of duty. (The tally of my hundreds of legislative measures, nearly 30 Public Laws, thousands of office meetings and countless committee and other initiatives over

the years speaks truth to that assertion.) First, on my personal staff, Patrick Sheehan, my Counsel and Legislative Director, has been a dynamic and intelligent thinker and leader, who offered sage advice on immigration, military and veterans affairs; Greg Helman, my Senior Legislative Counsel kept pace with my many Judiciary and legislative demands, especially bankruptcy reform and appropriations (as I would expect from a Palmyra, PA native); Becky Smith, my office manager and health legislative assistant, kept my schedule and personal affairs humming along smoothly and ably managed my most favorite of projects, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus of which I was founder and Co-Chairman; David Greineder, who did a multitude of duties as my talented systems manager, legislative correspondent and Legislative Assistant covering education and labor issues; Bill Tighe, another LC and Legislative Assistant whose insights into the Agriculture and Natural Resources needs of Pennsylvania and the district were more than invaluable, they were accurate; Mike Shields, my recent press secretary extraordinaire, who did an excellent job under difficult situations; and, of course, Allan Cagnoli, my long time Chief of Staff from Hershey, PA, a superb leader of the office and jack-of-all-trades who kept the office running and productive no matter what the crisis.

My Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, of which I was Chairman, was ably staffed by George Fishman, Lora Ries, Art Arthur, Cynthia Blackston and Emily Sanders, as well as Brian Zimmer of the full Committee staff. They handled the extremely important legislation necessitated by the new domestic and international threats we now face. Their assistance to me during the challenges of this year is impossible to measure. The House of Representatives has much to look forward to with their continued work.

And last but not least, is the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, of which I was a member this last Congress but on which I served as Chairman from 1994–2000. On this subcommittee we dealt with the hundreds of regulator reform issues developed by the Republican Majority through the Contract With America and following initiatives. My major Bankruptcy Reform measure began with me in this subcommittee; Administrative Law Judges; Legal Services Reform; the Federal Agency Compliance Act; The Regulatory Fair Warning Act; Executive Orders; Internet Tax reform; the Federal Arbitration Act; Interstate Compacts; the Independent Counsel Act; and many, many other topics. While bankruptcy reform took center stage, there was no end to the amount of topics and work my staff and I pursued. For this I thank them, the current and former staffers of the subcommittee, for all their exceptional work: Chief Counsel Ray Smietanka, who has worked with me as my chief committee counsel since I came to the 98th Congress in 1983; Susan-Jensen Conklin, whose superb work on bankruptcy reform got us where we are today; Rob Tracci, formerly of the Subcommittee, was an invaluable source of assistance; and all the other members of the CAL staff who have helped this Member of Congress over the many productive years. I thank them all for their work to the Nation and me.

To all I have mentioned, and those who I have regrettably not, please accept my sincere

thanks for making my tenure in the United States House of Representatives a productive and pleasant one. Any current Member of Congress or Committee would be well served by the high-quality staff with whom it has been my pleasure to work over these many years.

HONORING JOHN KORREY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Korrey of Iliff, CO, who recently received the 2002 World Champion Livestock Auctioneer title.

John is an extraordinary auctioneer, a skill that is highly admired in eastern Colorado. His talent helps ranchers earn top dollar for their stock. In fact, John has received other top accolades for his talent, including the Greater Midwest Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 2002 and International Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 1998. John is only one of four individuals globally to hold these three titles.

John Korrey is a native of Iliff, CO. Raised as a family farmer and rancher, John now runs Korrey Auctions, his own business, and is partner in Premier Livestock Exchange. At home, John enjoys farming with his wife Janna and his daughters Heidi and Lacey.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Korrey and ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing him success as World Champion Livestock Auctioneer.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. AL AKERS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Al Akers upon his retirement as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition on December 1, 2002.

Mr. Akers' resume and accomplishments speak for themselves. He holds masters degrees in both business administration and international relations, and he is a graduate of the Advanced Management Programs at the Claremont Graduate School and the University of Southern California. After retiring from the U.S. Army as a major general, Mr. Akers helped launch two companies and was the executive director of a non-profit organization.

Not only does Mr. Akers have an impeccable career on paper, he has had a great and tangible impact on his community. In 1993, he served as chairman of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Counsel for Fairfax County Public Schools. Then, in 1995, he was selected as Lord Fairfax for the Springfield District, and also became a member of the Task Force on Fairfax County Resources and Expenditures. Mr. Akers served as a member of the Lorton Task Force from 1995–1997 and as vice chairman of the Springfield District Council. In addition to serving as vice chairman of this council, Mr. Akers was, and remains a member.

Perhaps one of his most significant contributions has been his work with the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, an all-volunteer organization committed to the protection of "The Downzoned Occoquan Watershed" and drinking water it provides. Mr. Akers served as vice president of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition from 1994–1999, in addition to serving as the coalition's representative to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Association since 1995.

It is his tenure as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition we recognize today.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend a wholehearted thank you to Mr. Al Akers. His contributions to Virginia and his community have been great. Virginia is proud to have such a distinguished citizen in its professional and social community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding him for all that he has done.

LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate, but not celebrate Lebanon's Independence Day. Fifty-nine years ago, Lebanon gained its independence from France. Yet, today, Lebanon is no longer a sovereign and independent country. With 25,000 Syrian troops occupying Lebanon, it remains firmly in the grip of Damascus, without the ability to conduct its own affairs without first seeking the approval of the Assad regime.

More than 2 years ago, Israel completely withdrew its armed forces from southern Lebanon. This withdrawal was certified by the United Nations. The time is long past due for Syria to leave, as well, and for the Lebanese to run Lebanon.

As the author of the Syria Accountability Act, I thank the 172 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the 45 members of the Senate who joined as cosponsors of our legislation. We have together shined a bright light on the injustice of the continuing Syrian occupation of Lebanon and have only added to the growing campaign to liberate Lebanon.

So, on this 59th anniversary of Lebanese independence, I stand with the Lebanese people who seek freedom and democracy for their beautiful country and peace for the entire region. It is my hope that some time soon, Lebanese Independence Day will not only be a commemoration, but will once again be a celebration.

HONORING PATTI REILLY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patti Reilly upon her retirement as Mariposa County District I Supervisor. Patti Reilly has shown her dedication to the citizens of Mariposa and District I through years of active involvement and leadership.

Patti Reilly has demonstrated her community involvement through her years of service on numerous projects, boards and commissions. She was first elected to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and re-elected for her second term in 1998, serving as Chair the same year. On the board she served as liaison member to the Fiscal and Education Services, the Health and Human Service areas, and on Yosemite Park issues.

Patti Reilly has helped shape the future of Mariposa by serving on the Planning Commission and acting as Chair of both the Local Transportation Commission and the Housing Authority of the County of Mariposa. She has championed economic development, education, justice, and youth development.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Patti Reilly for her years of service to Mariposa and for her distinguished community involvement. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Patti Reilly many more years of continued success.

**PAT FINUCANE REPORT IN
NORTHERN IRELAND**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens to expeditiously complete the report on the February 1989 killing of Pat Finucane in Belfast. Sir Stevens has been investigating this case for almost 3 years.

Pat Finucane was shot and killed by British-Loyalist paramilitaries while he sat eating a Sunday meal with his wife and three children. Since his murder in 1989, Amnesty International and the United Nations have called on the British Government to investigate any collusion between the RUC/British Government officials and the Loyalist paramilitaries. Unfortunately, after 3 years of investigation still no report has been made public.

Prior to being murdered, Mr. Finucane was a human rights lawyer who defended several individuals that were detained by the RUC. According to the UDA, Ulster Defense Association, which claimed responsibility for his murder, Mr. Finucane was profiled as an individual who was helping support the pro-Catholic, pro-Republican cause in Northern Ireland.

Last week, Sir John Stevens announced, for a second time, that the Finucane report would be delayed as a result of a British military witness being reluctant to speak to the police. Stevens claims that the report will be released 'before next spring', however, there continues to be speculation that the report may be delayed further should a public inquiry be ordered.

There are few who will dispute the facts in this case. According to Brian Nelson, a former British military intelligence agent who also served as chief intelligence officer of the UDA, he directly assisted in the targeting of Pat Finucane and passed a photograph of Pat Finucane to a UDA member just days before the killing. However, Mr. Nelson claims have never been examined in an open court.

To date no one has been prosecuted for the murder of Pat Finucane.

The facts in this case seem quite straightforward—once again a pro-Loyalist police force used its authority to further sectarian rule and continue the rash of violence against the Catholic Community.

I call on Prime Minister Tony Blair and London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Stevens to finally release the current report and then immediately open a full public inquiry into this matter. My hope is that by putting an end to this long drawn-out process we can bring both justice to the individuals who undertook this gruesome act and take steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

This whole matter once again reinforces my belief that for too long both the British government, along with their police force, and the Loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland have worked in tandem to usurp the rights of the Catholic Community.

A full public inquiry into this matter will show the world that the only way peace can last in Northern Ireland is for a full fair and just reform in policing in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland must immediately implement all of the Patten Commission's recommendations on policing.

Mr. Speaker, if there is to be a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland we must learn from what happened to Pat Finucane and ensure that it never happens again.

HONORING MS. LESLIE TOURIGNY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank Ms. Leslie Tourigny for serving the residents of the Seventh Congressional District in her capacity as an American Political Science Association Fellow.

Ms. Tourigny spent the last year making significant contributions in the areas of: Postal Reform, Civil Service, and Defense issues. She also did an outstanding job of responding to constituent mail and inquiries.

Ms. Tourigny came to my office with more than 29 years of experience in the Federal Government. The ideas that she brought and passion for public service enhanced my office greatly. She operated as a senior staff person, and was willing to go the extra mile. Her attention to detail and diligence were greatly appreciated.

As Leslie returns to the Defense Intelligence Agency I wish her well. Again, on behalf of the residents of the Seventh Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Leslie for her outstanding work.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 4750

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give sincere thanks to Chairman HANSEN, Ranking Member RAHALL and the staff of the Resources Committee for their efforts to move H.R. 4750 through this chamber in the final hours of the 107th Congress. I am

pleased to inform you Mr. Speaker, that the other body has passed this legislation as well and it is on its way to the President. This legislation designates as wilderness more than 50,000 acres of land in the Central Coast of California, adding another jewel in the crown of Big Sur.

Mr. Speaker, since this legislation passed without committee action, it was not possible to get a Committee Report so I want to inform you of my intentions in regard to H.R. 4750. The Big Sur region is a rough, wild, sparsely populated area full of scenic vistas and should be managed as such. In regard to wilderness fire management, it would be beneficial to have a management plan for the Ventana and Silver Peak areas prepared, following their designation as wilderness, that would authorize the Forest Supervisor of the Los Padres National Forest to take whatever appropriate actions are necessary for fire prevention and watershed protection. This would include, but not be limited to, acceptable fire suppression and fire suppression measures and techniques. Any special provisions contained in the management plan for the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas should be incorporated in the planning for the Los Padres National Forest.

This language is a slight modification of language enacted in 1977 as part of the legislation initially designating the Ventana wilderness area. The thought is that current language be as close to original language as possible. Local USFS staff have indicated that under normal agency procedures, the decision to utilize this existing authority would have to be made at the regional forester level or higher. The practical impact is that the existing authority has never been used. This language seeks to make the existing authority more useful by authorizing the decision at the forest supervisor level.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to military training at Fort Hunter-Liggett, I suggest that we do nothing to preclude existing low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over wilderness areas. In regard to military access all non-motorized access to and use of the wilderness areas designated by this Act for military training should be permitted to continue in the same manner and degree as permitted prior to enactment, subject to reasonable regulation by the land manager. This language will apply to the proposed wilderness areas adjacent to Fort Hunter-Liggett. The non-motorized use language covers a variety of training activities that the military has undertaken in the National Forest. Currently, the two agencies have an MOU that governs such activities. I would encourage a new MOU be developed to account for the change to wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Coast is a unique ecosystem in itself. For example, only in this area will you find giant redwoods growing in the same drainage as a yucca plant. Because of this great diversity our area faces constant assaults by invasive species. The spread of invasive species continues to inflict great damage to the Big Sur region's environment. Such plant species as South American pampas grass, genesta (French broom) from southern Europe, and cape ivy from South Africa have taken over large areas of the Big Sur region. In addition, a cross breed of feral and wild pig has become very prolific in many areas of Big

Sur. These pigs plough up native plants which destroys habitat for native animals and opens the way for many non native plants to colonize the disturbed ground. On their own, each of these species has inflicted major adverse changes to the Big Sur landscape. Their combined assault has resulted in the displacement of entire native communities.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has invested millions of dollars in acquiring land for conservation in the Big Sur region. A program of this type would help prevent the ecological value of that investment from being destroyed. This region needs a program to target the eradication of invasive plant and animal species in the Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest. In addition nearly private or other non USFS property where the property owner seeks the assistance and where the invasive species are present on that property pose a threat to national forest lands and should be included as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see the transfer USFS land currently occupied by Pacific Valley School under special use permit to the Pacific Valley School District. The amount of land to be transferred should not exceed the school's existing footprint (approximately 5 acres). Also, the transfer should include reversionary language that would require transfer back to the Forest Service if the School District ever gave up use of the land. The Pacific Valley School serves the residents of the rural southern Big Sur Coast. It has approximately 40 students in grades K-8. The school has occupied a site on USFS property under a special use permit for approximately 35 years. The school itself consists of 6 portable buildings arranged on a series of concrete and asphalt pads. Over the years the school has had a good relationship with the Forest Service. The major problem is the inflexibility that the special use permit arrangement imposes on the school's site management. Generally, any changes the school wants to make to the site have to be cleared by the Forest Service. Even if a change, for example the addition of a student garden or replacing a set of building steps, may not need Forest Service approval, the uncertainty of whether it does have a chilling effect on any activity. This transfer is intended to resolve the potential conflict and release the USFS from acting as a school site manager.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I feel we should authorize the construction and maintenance of a new water line and corresponding spring box improvements adjacent to an existing domestic water service in the Silver Peak Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest. The water system in question serves two adjacent properties located just outside the existing Silver Peak Wilderness Area boundary established in 1992. Both parcels are 10 acres and are located in the west ¼ of the south ¼ of the southwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 14 in township 24 south, range 5 east, MDB&M. Both parcels have drawn water from the same spring for over 40 years. A single pipeline runs from the spring box located in the wilderness and delivers water to the two parcels in succession. The 1992 act creating the Silver Peak Wilderness Area grandfathered this system into the wilderness. However, Monterey County ordinances now implementing state and federal law treat the system as a water distribution system which requires it to comply with the treatment and storage

needs of a larger system serving multi-households. The owners of the two parcels want to lay a new separate pipeline alongside the existing line so that they become two separate individual systems and thus free of the cost of complying with the multiple hook-up requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank all those that made passage of this legislation possible. Protection of these resources is of great benefit to all.

HONORING BENEDICT KUPCHO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join Coginchaug Regional High School and the community of Durham, Connecticut in paying tribute to Benedict Kupcho as he celebrates his retirement after thirty-seven years of service. An educator, colleague, and friend, Mr. Kupcho has been an invaluable resource to the students and faculty of Coginchaug Regional High School and the residents of Durham throughout his career.

I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our students learn and grow. Mr. Kupcho is just that kind of teacher. His commitment and dedication has touched the lives of thousands of our young people. Mr. Kupcho has enriched his students lives ensured that they have a strong foundation on which to build their futures—making a real difference in all of their lives. Coginchaug Regional High School has been fortunate to have benefitted from his many years of service.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kupcho on several occasions throughout my career in the House of Representatives and I am always in awe of his seemingly unending enthusiasm and excitement. For twenty-two years, Mr. Kupcho has organized Coginchaug's annual trip to Washington, D.C.—bringing over two thousand students to our nation's capital throughout five separate administrations. Through wind, rain, sleet and snow, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were given the opportunity to visit Washington and experience how our government works. I have always held a firm belief in the importance of engaging our young people in the democratic process and in assuring that they have a voice here in Washington. Mr. Kupcho's dedication is a reflection of this ideal and our community owes him a great debt of gratitude for all that he has done on behalf of our young people.

As a track coach and student advisor, Mr. Kupcho has also acted as a mentor to many students—truly helping to shape their lives outside of the classroom as well. In addition to his many professional contributions at Coginchaug Regional High School, Mr. Kupcho has also been active in the Durham community. One of the most popular and longest running events in Connecticut, the Durham Fair has long been the beneficiary of Mr. Kupcho's time and energy. Attracting thousands of people from across the state, the Durham Fair is a major event for the small

community of Durham. The name Benedict Kupcho is almost synonymous with the parking organization for the Fair and it has been his efforts that have enabled its many attendees to enjoy this wonderful annual event.

It is with great pleasure and my very best wishes for continued health and happiness that I stand today and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Benedict Kupcho for all of his good work throughout his thirty-seven years with Coginchaug Regional High School. Though he will certainly be missed, he has left an indelible mark on the Durham community and a legacy that will inspire others for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF RABBI STUART WEINBLATT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt on his 50th birthday and in recognition of the tremendous work he has done on behalf of others. Rabbi Weinblatt and his wife Symcha are the parents of four wonderful children, Ezra, Margalit, Micha, and Noam. He is the founding Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tzedek, a Conservative synagogue in Potomac, Maryland, to which I belong, serving more than 620 families. Prior to forming Congregation B'nai Tzedek in 1988, Rabbi Weinblatt was the Rabbi of Temple Solel in Bowie, Maryland, for seven years and Temple Beth Am in Miami, Florida, from 1979-1981.

Rabbi Weinblatt is active in a number of local and national organizations, including the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the UHC, Hillel at the University of Maryland, the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Council, where he chaired a committee on Jewish Life and Culture, and the Federation of Greater Washington, where he chaired the Super Sunday effort several years ago. Rabbi Weinblatt has also served as President of the Washington Board of Rabbis. He has been an adjunct professor of Jewish History and Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary since 1992. His dynamic leadership, innovative approach to Judaism and reputation as an outstanding teacher and speaker has earned him many honors, including selection as a Bronfman Fellow by CLAL and as a fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute Center for Rabbinic Enrichment program. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and community involvement, he was chosen in 2001 as the Washington area ORT "Man of the Year." He is a strong and vocal supporter of the State of Israel.

I met Stuart Weinblatt when I was first running for Congress, 14 years ago, when we were seated at the same table, by chance, at a dinner. I had no idea that years later I would become a member of a new synagogue that was opening with him at the helm. I have followed this man all these years, and have watched him and the synagogue grow in stature. His sermons are always remarkable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Weinblatt's years of service to his community and the nation have

enriched the lives of so many others and he is a stellar example of the type of individuals we need leading our communities. I am proud to be a congregant of Rabbi Weinblatt's Synagogue. I wish Rabbi Weinblatt a very happy 50th birthday and I look forward to his continued service as a leader in our community. I am proud to call him my Rabbi, and even more proud to call him my friend.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND COURAGE OF JOURNALISTS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the courage of journalists who have given their lives in the pursuit of truth.

I rise to commend organizations like the National Ukrainian Journalists Union, a group dedicated to the protection of Ukrainian journalists, the abolition of censorship and the defense of free speech.

In many developing countries, harassment, in the form of threats, arrest, and even kidnapping and murder is used as a tool to silence journalists who dare to report the truth. No single attempt at censorship has sparked more protest than the disappearance and murder of Georgiy Honhadze in Ukraine in 2000. This crime cast international attention on the systemic oppression of freedom of expression, and cast significant doubts on the level of democratic development in Ukraine.

The death of Honhadze, the beating death of Ihor Aleksandrov, the director of a television station in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine in July 2001, and most recently, the death of Mykhailo Kolomyiets, the director of a news agency in Kyiv, Ukrainian News, reinforce doubt about the state of freedom in Ukraine. The lethargic pursuit of the investigations of these deaths by authorities indicates official apathy if not tacit approval.

Mr. Speaker, continued government control of the media, and often violent oppression of freedom of expression denies the Ukrainian people their inalienable human rights and prevents democracy from rooting and growing in Ukraine. Therefore, I call upon my Colleagues in the Congress to urge the government of Ukraine to resolve the deaths of these journalists expeditiously, to implement an agenda for the defense of free speech, and to recognize the fourth day of December as "a day of sorrow for lost journalists."

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN BOB BORSKI

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a good friend and colleague, BOB BORSKI, upon the occasion of his retirement from twenty years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives.

Congressman BOB BORSKI (D-PA) was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

in November 1982. He is currently serving his tenth term as the Representative from Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District, which encompasses Northeast Philadelphia, the River Wards, Society Hill and portions of Queen Village. Of the three districts that include parts of Philadelphia, the 3rd is the only district completely within city limits.

As a teenager in Northeast Philadelphia, BOB was a standout athlete for the Frankford High Pioneers, captaining the basketball and baseball teams. He is a low-profile leader in Congress, but he still gives his all for the community where he grew up, devoting most of his energies to the needs and concerns of the 3rd District.

Since he was elected, BOB BORSKI has fought vigorously to preserve military facilities and defense jobs in his congressional district and throughout the Philadelphia region. In 1993 and 1995, he worked with the city of Philadelphia and community leaders to defeat attempts to close the Aviation Supply Office (ASO) and its tenant activities in Northeast Philadelphia.

In the past couple of years, BOB has initiated an effort to reclaim and revitalize the neglected waterfront of the Delaware River. We worked together in a coordinated effort with various regional, federal, state and local stakeholders in order to develop Philadelphia's waterfront for the benefit of both the city and the people. He envisioned an exciting, prosperous, new waterfront for Philadelphia that will reconnect neighborhoods with land developed for many uses. Interconnected recreational pathways as well as plenty of open green space bordering the river are principal parts of his vision.

Representative BORSKI retires as the third ranking Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as the lead Democrat on the Committee's Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

In addition to his leadership position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, BOB served as Regional White for Philadelphia and Ohio. As a senior member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Subcommittee Ranking Member, BOB has been a vocal advocate of an improved national transportation system and a strong federal commitment to public infrastructure and mass transit programs. In Philadelphia, his legislative efforts have resulted in millions of dollars more for SEPTA, I-95, neighborhood roads, and transportation improvements which will greatly benefit the Port of Philadelphia, and as a result, the surrounding area.

In the 105th Congress, BOB worked to pass TEA-21, authorizing spending for highway, mass transit and other transportation-related projects across the nation. This bill included \$221 million in projects for the City of Philadelphia and led to the expansion of Philadelphia International Airport, I-95 improvements, investment in mass transit, and the construction of the Frankford Transportation Center, a state of the art multimodal terminal complex. With TEA-21, Congressman BORSKI led the effort to bring construction and manufacturing jobs to the City of Philadelphia with projects that also assisted in the reduction of traffic congestion and air pollution.

He has worked consistently to defend public safety, authoring legislation which bans the expanded use of triple trailer trucks as well as legislation which prohibited the dangerous

practice of backhauling—transporting foods one way and toxic chemicals on the return trip.

In previous years, BORSKI served as the top Democrat on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, a job that at times pulled him well beyond his customary focus on Philadelphia into issues such as government response to natural disasters and desalination efforts in communities short of fresh water. BOB was instrumental insuring the passage of the landmark Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

BOB BORSKI has been a strong supporter of the environment. As the subcommittee began debate in the 105th Congress on legislation to overhaul the Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program, BORSKI refused to support legislation that would go easy on polluters or that failed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. He has pushed for legislation to promote cleanup of "brownfields"—urban industrial sites where pollution discourages redevelopment.

BOB is also a member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the Congressional Delegation to the NATO Assembly, and the ad-hoc committee on Irish Affairs.

In addition to his committee assignments, he represented the concerns and needs of his large senior citizen constituency and serves on the Older Americans Caucus, the Diabetes Caucus, and the Prescription Drug Task Force.

Prior to his 1982 election to the U.S. Congress BOB BORSKI served three terms in the Pennsylvania State House. Before that, he was a floor manager at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. He was born in Philadelphia on October 20, 1948 and is a life-long resident of the city. In 1966, he graduated from Frankford High School where he captained the basketball and baseball teams. He attended the University of Baltimore on an athletic scholarship and, after graduating with a B.A. in 1971, served one year as the assistant basketball coach. Congress BORSKI lives in Northeast Philadelphia with his wife Karen and is the father of four girls and one boy.

I am grateful for the many years I've gotten to serve with BOB in the Pennsylvania delegation. His friendship, unfailing congeniality and hard work made it a joy to work with him, contributed immeasurably to the cohesiveness of the delegation and benefited Pennsylvania greatly. He will be remembered as a gentleman and statesman who left a positive mark on this body.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CORNELIUS MYRICKS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Cornelius Myricks born April 25, 1926 in Montgomery, Alabama. During his younger years, Mr. Myricks served in the United States Navy for four years. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. It was then he became a member of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church and ordained as a Deacon in 1950. He served as

the President of the Senior and Junior Usher Boards for many years and later as the Captain of the Usher Board and the Willing Workers Club Number Two. Mr. Myricks was an active member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church participating in duties as an usher. His favorite scripture was John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day, the night cometh, when no man can work."

Mr. Myricks departed this life on Saturday, November 16, 2002 at 9:32 a.m., at the VA Westside Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He is missed by his devoted wife, Thelma; one brother, Willie (Mattye) Myricks; sister-in-law, Gerdaleme Myricks, McGrye Wright, Lucille Payne and Pearly Payne; brother-in-law, George Payne; two play sisters, Lonzie Johnson and Ernestine Lenard; nieces; nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the family. May God Bless his family.

HONORING THE 3RD U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT, "THE OLD GUARD"

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the perseverance, dedication, and hard work of the members of America's oldest and one of the most prestigious units of our Armed Services, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard."

As a nation, we have held many ceremonies honoring those individuals and groups who responded to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and, without regard for their personal safety or emotional well-being, went about the sometimes gruesome task of looking for survivors in an area so devastated, few of us can even imagine the horror faced on that day. Men and women who eventually were searching for something, anything, that could help identify a victim and bring some measure of peace to anxious family members and friends. Unfortunately, as with any disaster of this magnitude, some people who assisted in the search for survivors and helped in the recovery efforts have not been identified and therefore have not been recognized for their invaluable service during the days, weeks, and months following the attacks.

Traditionally, The Old Guard has served to conduct ceremonies, memorial affairs, and special events to demonstrate the excellence of the United States Army to the world. Their missions normally include conducting military ceremonies at the White House, Pentagon, and other national memorials as well as to provide funeral escorts at Arlington National Cemetery and maintain the 24-hour vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. However, their normal mission changed on September 11, 2001.

The Old Guard was immediately pressed into service for rescue and recovery for the disaster site at the Pentagon. Like all branches and units of our armed services, The Old Guard met the challenge in response to the terrorist attack. And like our nation, the resolve of The Old Guard was not shaken, no matter the mission.

I rise today to honor the sacrifices of all our men and women in uniform involved in the

war on terrorism, in particular the unique services provided by members of The U.S. Infantry's Old Guard at the Pentagon. Let us never forget the service that our military has provided over the past 225 years and the sacrifices they made to protect and preserve our freedom.

IN TRIBUTE OF STAFF SGT. RYAN FORAKER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sgt. Ryan Dane Foraker. Staff Sgt. Foraker, a U.S. Army reservist with the 342nd military police Company based in Columbus, Ohio, has been reported missing at the U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba since Tuesday, September 24, 2002.

Sgt. Foraker's wallet, military ID and civilian shorts and T-shirt were found folded and stuck in a rock crevasse outside Camp America barracks.

An extensive search and rescue effort including watercraft and search and rescue helicopters for the missing soldier was called off as of 2 p.m. (EST) October 4, 2002. Staff Sgt. Foraker's official duty status is, "whereabouts unknown."

Described as a "model soldier," Foraker was in his seventh month of reserve duty as a supervisor of MP's guarding al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners, first at Camp X-Ray and later at compound Delta as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Detainee involvement was not suspected in his disappearance.

Staff Sgt. Foraker leaves behind a wife and two daughters, ages 3 years and 14 months.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join me in expressing sincere sorrow, sympathy, and gratitude for Staff Sgt. Foraker and his family. Staff Sgt. Foraker's disappearance while defending America is a somber reminder of the dangers facing those safeguarding our Nation's freedoms. May God rest his soul.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH BERMUDEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Bermudez who has dedicated his life to his adopted country. Joseph came to the United States as a boy of just 6 years of age. Throughout his life he has given so much to his country, his community, and his family.

Joseph joined the Navy and served during the Vietnam era. He remained in the Naval Air Reserve for 23 years, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Shortly after his discharge from the Navy, Joseph joined the Bronx Bureau of Child Welfare serving as a caseworker, child protective investigator and training specialist for the Manhattan office.

Joseph's professional career in the New York City Schools began as a bilingual social worker and social work coordinator for Community School District 1 and District 4 in Man-

hattan. Later he worked for School District 11 in the Bronx, as a bilingual social worker at Junior High School 112 and at Truman High School as a counselor. He also worked as an in-house social worker for the Committee on Special Education. The past 12 years he has served as an Education Administrator for The Committee on Pre-School Special Education. Finally, he has also served on the District Universal Advisory Board.

During this distinguished tenure, Joseph took time away from the New York Schools to serve a 3-year assignment with the U.S. Public Health Service as a Health Service Officer. During his tour of duty, the United States faced two major public health crises, the Cuban Boat Crisis and the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

Joseph is a graduate of Long Island University and Fordham University, where he received a Master's degree in Social Work. He still lives in New York with his wife of 34 years and is the proud father of two daughters, Christina and Yvonne.

Mr. Speaker, New York and the United States have been blessed by the efforts of Joseph Bermudez. He is a shining example for all of us to look to.

TRIBUTE TO TOM LEVY

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Tom Levy, who is retiring as the General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD).

Mr. Levy has served the public for thirty years at CVWD, and has served as General Manager for sixteen years. Under his tenure as General Manager, the District's domestic water service more than doubled, from less than 42,000 meters in 1986 to more than 86,000 today. He was instrumental in numerous water conservation projects, including the Whitewater River Spreading Area facilities and the development of an Urban Water Management Plan. He also worked feverishly for the last six years to bring about an agreement on the apportionment of Colorado River water for Southern California that would be satisfactory to CVWD, Imperial Irrigation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the State Department of Water Resources and the Department of the Interior.

He was appointed to California's Advisory Drought Planning Panel by Governor Gray Davis, and has also served two terms as Chairman of the State Water Contractors, which oversees the State Water Project.

For his leadership in California water issues, he was honored as a recipient of an Excellence in Water Leadership Award in 2000.

Even in retirement, Mr. Levy hopes to stay active in the water field, and will continue to provide whatever support the Coachella Valley Water District may need. It is my honor to acknowledge a man who deserves the recognition of our Nation and this Congress.

HONORING MR. ROBERT WAGNER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Wagner, a resident of California's 27th Congressional District. Mr. Wagner has recently been honored by his alma mater, Georgetown University, with the renaming of the University's Alumni House, the Robert M. Wagner Alumni House.

Robert Wagner was born in Perth Amboy, N.J. but raised in both Iowa and California during the Great Depression. In 1940, at age 16, Mr. Wagner was called to serve in World War II and during boot camp found enough time to earn his GED. Upon completion of his service, he was accepted as a student at Georgetown University on the GI Bill.

It was at Georgetown, Mr. Wagner says, that he learned the skills that have made him a success. His professors, course work and classmates, all played a role in both his professional success in the years after his graduation, and his dedication to the school which helped him to achieve some of his life's greatest successes.

His dedication to Georgetown is legendary. Over the past 33 years, he has volunteered to interview Georgetown applicants, founded the Georgetown University Alumni Association of Southern California, and has endowed five scholarships to benefit financially needy students. In addition to scholarships, Mr. Wagner has made unrestricted gifts to the Georgetown Annual Fund and endowed the Carroll Quigley Lecture Series, which brings experts in international affairs to the University.

Most recently, Mr. Wagner endowed both a charitable remainder unitrust and a charitable lead trust. Both trusts will support the reconstruction, renovation and maintenance of the newly designated Robert M. Wagner Alumni House.

Such dedication to the educational institution which served him so well is admirable and it is with great pleasure that I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Mr. Robert Wagner upon his being bestowed this great honor by Georgetown University.

TRIBUTE TO JACK STEWART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a true public servant, a man who has touched literally thousands of lives. Jack Stewart, who is currently the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Officer and a long-time constituent of mine, will be retiring from the post he created in 1983 after a career that has been marked by excellence and dedication.

Jack first served in the U.S. Army in 1954, eventually serving 20 years and receiving several decorations and awards including the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Mr. Speak-

er, these commendations obviously show the level of commitment he had to defending and protecting the democratic ideals our country cherishes, but it is only the beginning of what would become a career dedicated to those who, like himself, served their country with honor.

As a county supervisor, I got to know Jack and understand the workings of his office, which helped us both when I became a California State Assemblyman. When the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (which Jack served three terms as president) came to Sacramento I was always there for Jack, as he was for me. Jack was always a welcome sight in my office, and I know other counties were envious of the relationship and understanding that we had.

One of the highlights of my work with Jack during those years was helping him bring a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall to Monterey County, a deeply moving experience. This project was one of the best instances of veterans coming together with the community, including anti-war leaders, in an outpouring of love and respect for those who didn't come home. This was the first listing of all Monterey County MIA's and those killed in action, which led to the creation of a separate Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Salinas. It also provided for listing those names on the state memorial in Capitol Park in Sacramento, including my cousin John Geisen and Carmel High School classmate Andrew Elliot, who is MIA. For Jack's work on these projects, I am personally grateful.

Mr. Speaker, many people will undoubtedly sing Jack Stewart's many praises as his retirement nears, but I must mention a few things that he has done while I have been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Perhaps the single most influential role he had was during the closure of Fort Ord in Monterey County, the largest base closure in US history. The economic and social implications on the local communities were astounding, but Jack made sure that the interests of the veterans in the area were attended to. He had the world pulled out from him, as we lost a four hundred-bed hospital that served both active duty members and retirees; the CHAMPUS provider was to be switched so no one knew who to go to for health care; disabled vets were stranded without transportation; and all military personnel who could help handle such a crisis were gone. The only person left was Jack, who, with his staff had to do the work of an entire division.

Out of this chaos, he will be leaving behind a new clinic run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving a broader community than ever; a new Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Counseling Program; a Veterans Transition Center for homeless veterans and a transportation network that provides van rides to disabled veterans. Jack was also able to get the federal government to put up land and money to open a state-run veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord, and has been instrumental in starting and running the local process for making this a reality. Of course, this is a project that will continue without Jack, but he should be honored for his role in moving this from an idea to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close today by saying that Jack Stewart has handled more challenges than any county veterans officer I know of, and produced a more lasting legacy

of services than anyone. This alone speaks volumes, but I hope I have been able to show how much he will be missed, not only by me, but also by the community at large. I wish Jack and his family all of the best in retirement, even though I know that he will remain an active part of the veteran's community.

THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on November 19, 2002, I submitted remarks thanking my congressional staff. Inadvertently, several lines from those remarks were not included in that CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I here resubmit those missing lines which thanked Phil Jodz and Mike Rule on my staff for their contributions to my incumbency.

The end of a congressional career brings about many emotions. Over the last 20 years I have happily spent representing the fine people of the 17th Congressional District of Pennsylvania I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of constituents, local, state and federal officials, and many former and current distinguished members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. To all of them I say, thanks for working with me towards a better America.

And, of course, every Member of Congress works with many, many competent staff, from the staff in their own personal offices to the committee and subcommittee staff and the leadership and floor staff. It has often been said that without staff where would this institution be? And I concur with that statement, for without the many fine staff with whom I have had the good fortune to work, I and other Members of Congress of the United States would be far worse off.

Phil Jodz, is the many talented staff assistant who handled constituent tours and interns, and also ably handled press, legislative research, the office website, and all manner of writing in my office. Mike Rule, our newest staff assistant, showed a willingness, and more importantly a capability, to do whatever was needed to assist the office.

To both I say please accept my sincere thanks for making my tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives a productive and pleasant one. Any current Member of Congress or committee would be well served by the high-quality staff with whom it has been my pleasure to work over these many years.

CONCERNS WITH THE PAKISTANI PARLIAMENT'S RELIGIOUS BLOC

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my concerns regarding the Pakistani Parliament and in particular, the efforts of the Islamic alliance to form a governing coalition in Parliament with either the King's Party, led by President

Musharraf, or the People's Party, led by Benazir Bhutto.

Mr. Speaker, during Parliamentary elections held in Pakistan last month, members of the Pakistani religious bloc known as the Islamic allies unexpectedly won 60 out of 342 seats. Not only was this surprising, but furthermore, the outcome of the elections was divided in such a way that no party won the number of seats necessary to form a government.

As a result, the Islamic allies have been negotiating separately with the pro-Musharraf party and the Bhutto party in an effort to form a coalition and thereby create a majority. Their intent is to demand a reversal of constitutional amendments introduced by Musharraf earlier this year, and most importantly, to overturn the amendment that allows Musharraf to dismiss Parliament.

However, what concerns me greatly is that the members of this Islamic alliance, or this Pakistani religious bloc, won their seats based almost exclusively on an anti-American platform. In fact, this party's primary campaign message criticized Musharraf's support for the war on terror and denounced Musharraf's cooperation with the United States. In addition, a component of this party's message demanded that the U.S. military leave Pakistan and Afghanistan immediately. Lastly, the Islamic allies have encouraged Pakistanis to offer sanctuary to both the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and to embrace the work of Osama bin Laden.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that for these reasons, it is imperative that Pakistan's religious bloc remain unsuccessful in forming a coalition with Musharraf's party or Bhutto's party. If in fact this party gained a majority and was able to implement its anti-US policies, the consequences would be devastating.

At this stage, it does not seem as if the religious bloc will be able to achieve forming a government. However, Mr. Speaker, it is in the best interest of the U.S. to monitor this situation closely.

CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R.
4546, THE BOB STUMP NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House of Representatives took up and passed the conference report to H.R. 4546, the Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act. As one of the conferees to that measure, I was proud to support the overall bill and was pleased to see its passage. The Bob Stump National Defense Act was a fitting tribute to a man whose congressional career was spent working for our Nation's men and women in uniform.

This year's Defense Authorization Act has three main principles: protecting and defending America's homeland, supporting U.S. service members and their families, and better equipping troops with training, equipment and weapons to fight and win the war against terrorism. It marks the largest increase in defense spending in over 20 years, providing billions of additional dollars for procurement, research, and development for the next genera-

tion of weapons. The measure continues our commitment to improving the pay of military personnel by providing a 4.1 percent pay increase and continued the administration's plans to eliminate out-of-pocket housing costs for military families. H.R. 4546 devotes considerable resources toward protecting our homeland from the threat of terrorist attacks and from the growing proliferation of ballistic missiles. I stand behind this bill because I believe it provides our military with the foundation it needs and deserves. We are living in a time of war and must act accordingly.

Despite the important advances this bill makes for our national defense, I retain two reservations about the final product.

One significant issue which has not been addressed is legislation I sponsored to redesignate the position of the Secretary of the Navy as the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps. For over 200 years the Navy and Marine Corps have shared a secretary in being, but not in name. Notwithstanding their jointness, the Navy and Marine Corps are distinct with their own history, honors, and tradition. Rather than detracting from those traditions, this legislation seeks to recognize the separate, but equal traditions that the Navy and the Marine Corps team share. It acknowledges that there are two members of the same team and seeks to reinforce to the American people that the Secretary is a proud supporter of both. The legislation was adopted unanimously in the House Armed Services Committee, over half of whose membership had cosponsored the legislation. It was supported by three former Secretaries of the Navy, the current and two former Commandants of the Marine Corps, a former Secretary of the Veterans Administration, and many other former senior leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps. The Fleet Reserve Association and the Marine Corps League, each boasting thousands of members, also strongly urged passage of the legislation. Yet because of the concerns of a few, it was not included in the final conference report.

However I do not view this as a setback, but instead an opportunity. I remain committed to introducing the measure again early in the 108th Congress. As Commandant Jim Jones stated, this is an idea whose time has come. I will be working diligently with my Navy and Marine Corps friends to broaden the support and communicate the importance of this measure. By passing this legislation, the teamwork that has been present for over 200 years will finally be recognized in the title of the person who coaches the team.

A second shortcoming of the otherwise outstanding measure is the compromise on concurrent receipt. Although the language in the conference report regarding concurrent receipt is a very important step forward, I strongly believe that more should be done. As I stated in a letter to President Bush, if a man or woman served in uniform and retired honorably, they deserve to receive the retirement pay they were promised. If in the course of that service, that military member was injured and sustained a lasting disability, they should be compensated for that as well. One was earned for service and one was earned for sacrifice. It is for that reason that I have been a strong supporter of legislation to eliminate this offset since coming to Congress.

It is true that correcting this unfair penalty is expensive, however I also believe that our

military retirees are priorities for which we must be willing to support. Congressman BILIRAKIS, numerous military and veteran organizations such as the Fleet Reserve Association, and countless veterans have waged a tireless effort to see legislation ending the prohibition against concurrent receipt enacted. They should be commended for the great work that has been accomplished to date and encouraged to continue this fight in the future. I look forward to working with them on future efforts to meet the principles behind H.R. 303. Our military retirees did not fail us when they were called. We should not fail them.

GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET
AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION
PROVISION

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, in the waning moments of this Congress, the House of Representatives almost adopted a bill that would have devastating consequences to teachers and public employees across the State of Texas and the country. Instead of helping teachers and government employees secure a better retirement, H.R. 4070, Social Security Program Protection Act of 2002, as amended, would have left hard working teachers worse off rather than better off. In these uncertain economic times, this Congress should be adopting legislation to make sure everyone has access to the retirement benefits they have earned over a lifetime of work and service.

Two little known amendments to the Social Security Act are dramatically and unfairly slashing the retirement benefits of hundreds of thousands of Americans—teachers and other public school employees, firefighters, police, social workers, and other civil servants—who are being penalized for their public service. These provisions are just plain unfair, and I am committed to working to end the injustices of these two provisions.

The Government Pension Offset, GPO, requires that an individual who receives a pension from work that was not covered by Social Security has his or her Social Security spousal benefit substantially reduced. The law allowed an exemption from the GPO if he or she worked in a job that was covered by Social Security on his or her last day of employment. Under the Senate-passed version of H.R. 4070, an individual would be required to work in a Social Security-covered job for the last 5 years of employment to be exempt from the GPO. The amendment is being characterized as closing a loophole. This is not a loophole but rather a mechanism for individuals to obtain the benefits for which they have paid. It is an unnecessary and unjust hurdle. Instead of raising the bar to achieve these earned benefits, Congress should be eliminating the barriers completely.

In addition to the GPO, teachers and certain other workers are subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). This provision unfairly harms public servants by reducing—sometimes by as much as 55.6 percent—the Social Security benefits of federal, state, and local employees who retire from government jobs that are not covered by Social Security.

For teachers, the cost is significant. The Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision affect at least one-third of America's education workforce, concentrated in 15 states, including my home state of Texas. But, because people move from state to state, there are affected individuals everywhere. I know from personal experience the penalty hard working teachers pay. My own mother, who spent nearly 30 years serving as a teacher in the public schools, has been adversely affected. We need to attract more people to teaching and public service. Adding onerous and additional unfair requirements to obtaining their retirement benefits will not solve the crisis we are having in attracting and retaining teacher professionals.

Since my election to Congress, I have worked to eliminate these two provisions. On March 1, 2001, I introduced H.R. 848, the Social Security Benefit Restoration Act. This bill will bring equity to retirement benefits. It will eliminate the public sector penalty and will allow civil servants to draw full Social Security benefits. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 2638, the Social Security Fairness Act. This bill eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision as well as the Government Pension Offset. Finally, I, along with an overwhelming majority of Members, have cosponsored H.R. 664, which also eliminates the Government Pension Offset.

My bill and the other legislation to eliminate these unjust provisions have been languishing in the House Ways and Means Committee. These bills are but another example of the long list of things the Republican leadership of the Congress has failed to address. To pass a bill that would make retirement less accessible for those who teach our children is unconscionable. We need to be doing more to strengthen the teaching profession and not adopt laws that make teaching less attractive to current and prospective teachers.

When the 108th Congress convenes next year, I will reintroduce my bill and work with my colleagues to eliminate these unfair provisions. Thousands of Texans who have devoted their lives to teaching and public service are entitled to the benefits they have spent a career earning. Basic fairness demands that Congress repeal these provisions and allow teachers and other public servants to collect all of their retirement benefits.

ON THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
JOINT MEETING IN NEW YORK
TO COMMEMORATE THE TRAG-
EDY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me as the Member of the United States Congress to convene here in New York today, September 9, 2002, on this historic occasion. It has been one year since the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11. It has been over two hundred years since Congress convened here in New York at Federal Hall to elect the first President of the United States and to ratify the Bill of Rights.

We applaud the people of this great city and state for their resolve in light of the devasta-

tion thrust upon them. It is a credit to their perseverance and their total commitment to freedom that the 107th Congress stands proud today. We reflect with remorse on the past year, but also look forward with hope and optimism as we proceed in the healing of our Nation. On this historic day, the congress has convened to mourn the loss of families and friends during the September 11 attacks, and to salute the heroism of our police officers, fire fighters, and emergency responders who performed with unbridled bravery and gave so selflessly on that tragic day.

As I reflect on the tragic events of a year ago, I am reminded of the heavy hearts of so many great Americans who have grappled with this cowardly act and for those who had loved ones who perished in New York, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. For those who lost friends and coworkers and who must now try to go on with their lives, our prayers are offered to these families and their friends and to all America and other Countries who lost loved ones.

Today, we are expressing our gratitude to the fire fighters, police officers, healthcare workers and those individuals who, on that fateful day, performed heroic deeds and helped their fellow citizens and neighbors without regard for their own welfare.

During the recent year, my colleagues and I in Congress have actively engaged in debate about how to develop an agenda that addresses the new world in which we now live.

Though our country and the world have been shaken, we continue to build bridges toward progress and strengthen the bond of patriotism and the spirit of hope. I cannot express how important it is to map out a course for our future that will sustain, inspire and protect our children. We must provide our children with a sense of optimism and hope.

Our domestic efforts and grief over the tragic events of September 11 have heightened our appreciation for the pain of others around the world who have been subjected to the brutality and inhumanity of terrorism. That is why we have supported liberation and democratization efforts in Afghanistan and seek to assist in the rehabilitation of those persecuted and who are attempting to rebuild their lives and their country. We must complete our mission there.

As we return to Washington, our nation and its Congress will never forget the victims of September 11. On this occasion of reflection, recommitment and rededication to freedom and democracy, we are affirming our commitment to remember and honor the men and women who paid the ultimate price—their lives. They will always be a part of our history and our hearts. Our nation shall continue to rise to meet the challenge of terrorism and the threats posed by terrorists who seek to derail freedom and a Nation of peace.

H. RES. 598

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I rise to honor my friend Senator Paul Wellstone, who died October 25 in a plane crash in Minnesota

along with his wife and daughter, three of his staff members and two pilots. The mark that Paul Wellstone left on the world was far, far greater than his small stature and down-to-earth nature would suggest. And so, the emptiness we feel at his passing is vast and deep. It stretches far beyond the personal pain of losing a friend, or the tragedy of his shattered family.

Senator Wellstone was a public servant in the most ideal sense of the term. Politics never became more important to him than the people he represented and the people he loved. Victory never became more important to him than voicing his true convictions. Power never became more important to him than his desire to serve the powerless.

On the campaign trail, Paul Wellstone drove an old green school bus across the state of Minnesota. From that bus Senator Wellstone tirelessly assured people that he would struggle for peace and fight for veterans, that he would work to stop the tide of domestic violence and mental illness, and that he would defend our fragile environment. Most of all, that old bus brought hope and excitement to people whom for too long, and for too many reasons, felt that their government had forgotten about them. Now that he is gone, that bus must not sit and rust away. We must have the courage, the commitment, and the strength to keep that bus rolling.

I will miss Paul Wellstone greatly. I know that we all will.

HONORING TERRY FARMER
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terry Farmer of Eureka, who is being honored for his twenty years of public service as the District Attorney of Humboldt County, California.

Mr. Farmer has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant in our community. He has served on numerous community boards and organizations to help make the community a better place in which to live. Prior to being appointed a deputy district attorney, he was elected to the Trinidad City Council and as a member of his local school board. He was elected District Attorney of Humboldt County in 1982.

As district attorney, Mr. Farmer strived to achieve an outstanding system of justice, defined by professionalism and integrity. He developed a culture of excellence that reinforced competence and ethical values within the office.

During his tenure, the district attorney's office assumed a leadership role in the Child Abuse Services Team, a consortium of law enforcement, child protective workers, mental health professionals and victims working to improve investigations, convict molesters, and protect children. The program remains a model throughout the state of California.

Mr. Farmer worked collaboratively to develop a program to crack down on the use of methamphetamine in our community, while working to increase public awareness and improve treatment services to deter people using the drug.

Mr. Farmer graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1972. He concluded 6 years of service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard. He has ably served our nation, our state and our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Terry Farmer for his vision, leadership and commitment and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. ARTHUR H. WU AFTER 28 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent, Dr. Arthur H. Wu, for 28 years of meritorious federal service. In my Congressional tenure, I have been very proud to represent and serve the interests of our nation's most distinguished federal employees. These civil servants help to make our country safe, functional, and effective. We value their service and, today, I would like to specifically recognize Dr. Wu for his contributions to our nation upon his retirement from the Navy on December 20, 2002.

In his years of federal service Dr. Wu has made several notable contributions and attained a number of exceptional achievements. He was a top-ten finalist for the U.S. National Federal Engineer of the Year Award in 1997, as well as a two-time winner of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Engineer of the Year Award in 1985 and 1996. For these honors, he was recognized for: his significant contributions to the application of numerical modeling and computational analysis of foundations and dry-dock safety that resulted in millions of cost savings to the Navy; his exemplary leadership in directing and preparing engineering standards, criteria, and computer software used by practicing engineers in site selection and design in areas of high security; and for over conserving an estimated \$20 million of Navy resources and providing for enhanced military readiness. In addition to the above three major awards, Dr. Wu has also received over 20 special awards for his engineering design achievements and innovative technical developments.

Dr. Wu has ably served our nation well in a number of capacities including Senior Geotechnical Consultant, Acting Chief Engineer, Director of the Applied Engineering Division, and Technical Discipline Leader for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center. Dr. Wu is recognized worldwide as one of the premier problem solving engineers in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. His reputation for expert and thorough engineering analyses and support for ongoing design and construction projects are well known within the Department of Defense and private industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Wu for his years of service to our federal government. I offer him my warmest congratulations on his retirement and best wishes in his future endeavors.

THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE AND HUNGER IN AFRICA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I rise today to commemorate those innocent victims murdered by the Soviet regime during the Ukrainian Famine. Mr. Speaker, I also call the attention of the House to the famine presently being waged against the people of Zambia, Zimbabwe and South-central Africa.

This year, on November 23, the world observes the 69th anniversary of Ukraine's Great Famine—an unspeakable event. By presidential decree, every fourth Saturday in November is a national day of remembrance for famine and genocide victims throughout Ukraine. History has not witnessed a greater moral injustice. This was genocide unlike any other example in the history of human civilization.

At the time of the Great Ukrainian Famine, playwright George Bernard Shaw and his friend, Lady Astor, had a rare visit with Josef Stalin. "When are you going to stop killing people?" Lady Astor brazenly asked of Comrade Stalin. His terse reply: "When it is no longer necessary."

Stalin's favorite killing tool was mass starvation, a tactic he used ruthlessly against his own people. "The collectivization program in Ukraine resulted in a famine which cost not less than 3,000,000 lives in 1932. It was a Stalin-made famine," reported Time Magazine in its January 1, 1940, issue. We know now, the more realistic estimate is more than twice that originally reported by Time.

The Ukrainian Famine of 1921–1923 was a human tragedy perpetrated by the Soviet regime in an attempt to destroy Ukraine and its culture and leave behind an amorphous mass of people that could be restructured and redefined to serve the Soviet Union. It began as a process of assimilation, but soon turned to the collectivization and then subjugation of Ukrainian peasants, their lands, and their livelihoods. Most paid the ultimate price for their heritage, culture and orientation toward independence.

Bolshevik partisans confiscated grain from Ukrainian peasants and subsequently exported the stolen food to foreign nations and other regions of the Soviet empire. Those who protested were imprisoned, deported, or often killed on the spot. This grain, belonging to Ukraine, would have saved thousands of Ukrainian lives. Instead, it was callously shipped off for purposes of generating state profit, sometimes left to rot on the docks, or shipped to meet the needs of Russia's population. Once the famine ended, Ukraine's population was further decimated by a series of epidemics.

The Commission on the Ukraine Famine, appointed by Congress in 1986, researched and documented this terrible event. The commission confirmed these horrible events and verified the cruelty with which the atrocity was executed. The deliberate mass starvation did indeed constitute an act of genocide against Ukrainians. The commission's findings are recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for posterity, as is the graphic and sobering testimony of genocide survivors.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus have, in prior years, risen here on the House floor in observance of the Ukrainian Famine and in solidarity with the survivors of this terrible tragedy. We have taken great efforts to ensure this House never forgets. In fact, we honor the lives of the victims by rededicating ourselves to summoning the strength and courage of our own nation and the conscientious voices of its leaders in the Congress to stand in firm contradiction to any new tyrant who would contemplate such devastation through intentional famine.

Today's observance compels me to also speak out against one such example of starvation currently taking place in south-central Africa. Mr. Speaker, America must be unambiguous in its opposition to the deliberate famine presently being orchestrated there by an alliance of clearly defined conspirators.

As in Ukraine seventy 70 years ago. Southern Africa's famine has less to do with drought and everything to do with pure politics. Today, nearly 13 million people in Southern Africa face a similar starvation.

"We're staring catastrophe in the face—unless we get food aid fast to millions of people whose lives are in the balance because they are starving," said James Morris, the UN's special envoy to the region.

Officials blame environmental groups such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace that have pressured African countries like Zambia to halt shipments of food aid from the United States and other nations willing and able to relieve the famine and save precious lives. The groups oppose so-called genetically modified (GM) foods. Extremist groups have put their ideology—opposing the importation of all such hybrid agricultural products—ahead of the lives of starving people.

"It's very disturbing to me that some groups have chosen a famine to make a political point," says Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). "The lives of 13 million people are at risk."

Natsios said the U.S. is ready to supply more than 75 percent of all the food coming into starving Southern Africa. "If they don't get food from us they're not going to get it," he said.

This year, for example, Zimbabwe has refused to accept U.S. corn, convinced by radical groups that GM gain might somehow "contaminate" native crops. Some of this life-saving corn was grown in my own state of Colorado. Adding more disinformation, Friends of the Earth claims "the U.S. is disposing of its rejected food on Africa," in a news release last month.

Just as in Stalin's days, truth has seldom been an ally of the Left. Natsios, who says the U.S. has been supplying GM foods to the region for the past seven years, also says it is the same food sold and consumed in the United States. "I've never seen, in my 30 years of public service, such disinformation and intellectual dishonesty," he said.

As for problems with modified crops—there are none. Concerned about the lives of millions of people desperately in need, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a report at the end of the summer assuring GM foods are perfectly safe. "Southern African countries should consider accepting GM food aid in the face of the humanitarian crisis facing the region," urged WHO Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Like the notorious 1932–1933 mass starvation in Ukraine, famine is not always borne of a natural disaster. However, famine can become an effective ideological weapon.

Stalin himself would have been proud of the sordid partnership forged by radical environmentalists and African tyrants. What are a few million lives worth to this axis of hunger when there are political statements to be made?

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to speak in strenuous objection to this African tragedy unfolding before our very eyes. The extreme human price paid for the lessons of the Great Ukrainian Famine should not be dismissed now to the complacency of an overwhelmed world. To permit this new festering scourge is to insult the memory of those poor Ukrainians who have perished while trivializing the dignity of their survivors whose lives command us to respond with immediate courage.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN BUD SHUSTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express congratulations to a former colleague, Congressman Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, for an honor he recently received.

Earlier this week, Bud Shuster was named the "Transportation Person of the Century" by the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) in honor of the tremendous contributions he has made to the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems. It is a tribute to Bud that APC rightly recognized the role that he played in ensuring that our communities have transportation choices, such as transit, rail systems, pedestrian walkways, Amtrak, and bike paths.

Bud Shuster spent his career building America. Bud served in the House of Representatives for 28 years, six of those as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest and most productive committee in Congress. His perseverance, patience and willingness to find common ground made him one of the greatest committee chairmen we have seen in recent years in the House. His extraordinary achievements as Chairman speak for themselves, and he has the respect of his former colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Part of the joy of working on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is the way in which we work together to develop bipartisan bills. As a committee, we worked extraordinarily well over the six years of Bud's leadership. I had the pleasure of working with him on many major pieces of legislation to improve the nation's transportation and infrastructure systems, including TEA–21 and AIR–21. Throughout his service on the Transportation Committee, Bud Shuster demonstrated effective bipartisan leadership in showing that transportation, infrastructure and environmental programs make a real difference in all Americans' lives.

He retired from this body at the beginning of the 107th Congress, and since that time, I have missed him, not only for his policy expertise, but also for his friendship. I commend and congratulate Bud Shuster on his distinguished career as a public servant.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RICHARD H. FINAN FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. Dick Finan, from the Village of Evandale, is the outgoing President of the Ohio Senate. He is being honored for his dedicated service and loyalty to the Ohio General Assembly and to the citizens of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, President Richard H. Finan began his career in public service in 1963. He served as a Councilman in the Village of Evandale until 1969, when he was then elected to serve as Mayor.

After serving the citizens of Evandale for ten years, he ran for and was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives. There he served with distinction until 1978. He was elected to the Ohio Senate upon leaving the House of Representatives and in 1997, was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President.

President Finan has had a significant impact on public policy in Ohio. He has also reached out nationally in an attempt to improve the lives of all citizens living in this great land. He currently serves as Chairman of the University of Dayton Board of Trustees and is a Past President of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Serving his community and the State of Ohio was not only Dick's duty, but also his honor. These chances to give back to the public have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement. President Finan truly is a valued asset to the Village of Evandale and to the state of Ohio.

President Finan has been a great resource and a true friend to everyone around him. Respected by his colleagues in the legislature and in the private sector, Dick has shown the ability to improve the environment around him. He has been the recipient of many awards that reflect his service, including the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the President's Medal from Miami University, the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Medical College of Ohio, and the William Howard Taft Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League. He is an Honorary Alumni Member—Omicron Delta Kappa—at the University of Dayton and holds an honorary degree from Xavier University.

President Finan will be missed in the public arena. His wisdom, honesty and forthrightness are attributes to which all public servants should aspire. He has set an example for everyone on how to live a life of service, putting the greater interests of the community before one's own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to President Richard H. Finan. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dick, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Dick, his wife Joan and their four children all the best as we pay tribute to one of our nation's finest citizens.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
LAVAUGHN VENCHAEAL BOOTH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Reverend Lavaughn Venchael Booth, a distinguished friend and champion of faith and justice from Cincinnati, who passed away on November 17.

Born on January 7, 1919 in Covington County, Mississippi, Reverend Booth received a bachelor's degree in American history from Alcorn A&M College; a bachelor's degree in divinity from Howard University; and a master's degree in church history from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He began his ministry with First Baptist Church of Warrenton, Virginia and continued his ministry with First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana. He pastored Zion Baptist Church in the Avondale area of Cincinnati for 32 years before founding the Olivet Baptist Church in Silverton. Last year, he came out of retirement to pastor the Church upon the Rock in Anderson, Indiana.

In 1961, Reverend Booth founded the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC). The PNBC became the household of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement among African-American Baptists. As Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin noted, "King, while siding with progressives, had no active role with the organization of the PNBC." Dr. King at his last meeting with the PNBC in 1967 in Cincinnati emphasized according to convention minutes "that he is a member of the PNBC. He has come to speak not as a civil rights leader, but as a minister of the gospel." The PNBC split from the National Baptist Convention and formed a denomination that played an active role in the civil rights movement by joining with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and provided Dr. King with a national platform. Reverend Booth served as its president from 1971–1974. Progressives today have 2.5 million members in 1,800 churches nationwide.

But Reverend Booth's focus was his local ministry, and he said, "We should have concern for the physical, as well as the spiritual well-being of people." He initiated economic development projects, secured the credit to build hundreds of low-income housing units and a church-run nursing home, and later established the region's first black-owned bank. Described as a visionary who dedicated his life to the Lord, he was driven to do for others, trying to make the world and his community a better place to live.

Reverend Booth's civil and community activities are legendary. He was the first African-American member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees. He was a founding member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, served on the board of the Cincinnati City Gospel Mission and as vice president of the Gospel World Alliance. He helped to establish the Marva Collins Preparatory School in Cincinnati; the Cincinnati Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, a service that offered prayers for newly-elected public servants; and the National Prayer League.

Reverend Booth is survived by his sons, Paul Booth of Cincinnati, who is a member of

the Cincinnati City Council; Lavaughn Booth Jr. of Chicago; and Rev. Dr. William Booth of Hampton, Virginia; and daughters Anna-Marie Booth of San Francisco, and Dr. Georgia Leeper of Memphis. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. We are blessed by his life and having known him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 484, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN BILL COYNE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to my long time friend and colleague. BILL COYNE will retire from this institution after serving 11 terms as a Member of this institution.

Bill is a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, and so like myself, is a native of the southwestern Pennsylvania district he has so faithfully represented for the past 22 years.

The 14th District includes the city of Pittsburgh as well as 33 other surrounding communities in the very heart of this country's steel producing center. From his post as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, he has been able to develop and promote countless economic policy initiatives to the benefit of the Southwestern region as well as the Nation, including those dealing with Social Security, trade, tax reform, health care, housing and community development, job creation, and job training.

In addition to serving as ranking member of the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee BILL has served on the Banking Committee, the Budget Committee, the Committee on House Administration, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. He has consistently used his committee assignments to promote federal policies to the benefit of urban America.

During the 103rd Congress, BILL succeeded in making the tax-exempt Industrial Development Bond permanent. IDB's helped to create or retain more than 26,000 manufacturing jobs in Pennsylvania alone between 1987 and 1992. He also led the successful House Ways and Means opposition to a proposed \$1 per gallon hike in the Federal fuel tax for waterway commerce in 1993, which was of enormous economic benefit for the Three Rivers area he represents.

Bill also successfully inserted language in the 1993 reconciliation bill that provided low-income workers with an improved opportunity to receive an Earned Income Tax Credit on a monthly basis, instead of waiting for a single annual payment.

In the 104th Congress, BILL COYNE worked with many of his Democratic colleagues to protect Federal funding for programs serving children, seniors, and working families, and to ensure that the burden of Federal taxation was not disproportionately borne by working families. He also worked to provide tax incentives for businesses and municipalities to clean up and redevelop abandoned industrial sites, and he worked to expand protection for workers' rights in international trade agreements.

In the 105th Congress, he worked for middle-class tax relief while balancing the Federal budget responsibly. He was a supporter of both the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He worked successfully to include a provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 which allowed businesses to deduct the cost of cleaning up brownfields sites in certain targeted areas. He was also actively involved in developing and enacting legislation to reform the Internal Revenue Service, and much of his Taxpayer Bill of Rights legislation was in that bill.

BILL COYNE worked to make organ transplant regulations fairer and worked with me to make the Disproportionate Share Hospital program's formula for hospitals fairer as well. He also worked to provide nearly \$800 million in projects for his district in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) including reconstruction of Drake, Library and Overbrook trolley lines, construction of an extension of the MLK Jr. Busway, construction of an industrial access road in Lawrenceville, and construction of transit links between downtown and the North Shore.

During the 106th Congress, BILL COYNE continued to work to protect federal programs that serve children, senior citizens, the disabled, and working families; enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit; strengthen U.S. laws that punish unfair foreign trade practices; protect Americans' pensions and other retirement benefits; increase funding for medical research and education; and make the Federal Tax Code simpler and fairer by reforming the capital gains tax and the alternative minimum tax. He also worked successfully to increase public awareness about food stamp eligibility and to expand the brownfields tax provision and push back its expiration date by several years.

BILL COYNE is a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Robert Morris College. He served in the United States Army in Korea from 1955 to 1957. He worked as a corporate accountant for 13 years before entering politics in 1970. He served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1971 to 1972 and on the Pittsburgh City Council from 1973 until 1980.

I'm proud to have served alongside BILL COYNE and worked with him for these many years for the benefit of our adjoining districts and Pennsylvania as a whole. BILL's seniority on Ways and Means will be sorely missed by Pennsylvania. His expertise as a legislator will be missed by all Americans who were helped by his good work. His good nature, friendship, and collegiality will I know be missed by his fellow Pennsylvania Members and indeed by all of us here in the House of Representatives. Please join me in wishing him well in his retirement from public service.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN
BRAUNGINN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stephen Braunginn, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Madison for his work in the community.

As a leader in the Urban League movement and in the Madison area community, Mr. Braunginn has focused on the continuing struggle for equal opportunity for all with a special focus on African Americans, other people of color, those with disabilities and the disadvantaged.

Prior to working with the Urban League, Steve served as the Deputy Director for the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources for over four years. He was the first Director of Multicultural Affairs and Special Interest Groups for the Wisconsin Alumni Association at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He is also an educator, having taught in the Madison Schools for six years, working with students with learning disabilities and the gifted and talented. He served as a leader on the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) where he was also the leader of Teachers for a Free South Africa. In addition, Steve became active in developing a middle school for South Madison. When he was a teacher at Cherokee Middle School, he served on the Urban League Board of Directors, where he later became chair, serving for two years. During his tenure on the Urban League Board, Steve was selected to serve on the Madison School's South Madison Advisory Committee, which eventually developed the framework for Madison Middle School 2000 which later became James C. Wright Middle School.

Steve served on the Dane County Board of Supervisors for six years. During this time he chaired the Personnel and Finance Committee and the Dane County Human Services Board. He has been on many community commissions, served numerous organizations, and has also received a variety of awards for his service to the Madison area community.

As the Wisconsin Community Fund honors Steve Braunginn, I am proud to join them in thanking him for his dedication and service to the community.

LONG ISLAND'S HOUSING CRISIS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again note the severe affordable housing crisis my constituents face on Long Island.

Today's Newsday carried an article by Christian Murray revealing some truly disturbing statistics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 26 percent of Long Island households pay more than 35 percent of their gross monthly income on either rent or mortgage. For over fifty years Americans have been cautioned to keep housing expenses under 25 percent of their income. The 35 percent average is a genuine crisis.

Pearl Kamer, an economist who wrote the report for the Island's leading affordable housing organization, the Long Island Housing Partnership, noted that "with many people paying so much on housing, there is little left over for food and medical care."

Mr. Speaker, this housing crisis is having a terrible effect on Long Island's families. The fact that young people—often college graduates with good jobs—cannot find adequate, affordable housing, means that those young people are leaving Long Island. And if companies can't rely on a stable workforce, they will choose to locate somewhere else.

The lack of affordable housing on Long Island is not merely about some families having to pay too much. It is a problem that permeates every part of our community's life. Young people are forced out of our region. Jobs disappear as companies decide they can no longer depend upon a solid workforce. And our communities dissolve as the very foundation on which that community was built erodes.

Mr. Speaker, when the 108th Congress convenes in January, we must quickly address the issue of adequate housing in America.

I ask that the text of today's Newsday article be included in the RECORD at this time.

[From Newsday, Nov. 21, 2002]

MORTGAGING LI'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

(By Christian Murray)

Skyrocketing rents and booming home prices are forcing more than 200,000 Long Island households to pay more than one-third of their income on housing, according to a comprehensive new study released yesterday.

The study, "Lack of Affordable Housing: Prescription for Economic Disaster," found 26 percent of Long Island households pay more than 35 percent of their gross monthly income on either rent or mortgage.

"These findings are dire," said Pearl Kamer, a regional economist who conducted the study for the Long Island Housing Partnership. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines say households should not spend more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing.

"With many people paying so much on housing, there is little left over for food and medical care," Kamer said at a news conference at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset yesterday. Kamer added that the high cost of housing is forcing many people, especially young families, to leave Long Island, and this exodus will hurt the region when the economy picks up and companies can't find workers.

While affordable housing has long been an issue on Long Island, the problem has been exacerbated by the hot real estate market in the past four years, when home prices have soared 81 percent while household incomes have risen only 14 percent, Kamer said.

Jim Margo, president of the Hauppauge-based Long Island Housing Partnership, said he has established a task force of industry and nonprofit officials to take the study's findings to every municipality across the Island, as a means of prodding officials to make way for more affordable housing.

The study, based on 2000 census figures, analyzed median incomes and housing costs in more than 250 communities by individual census tract.

It found that about one quarter, or 165,000 of Long Island's 672,000 homeowners, paid at least 35 percent for a place to live—including mortgage payments, property taxes and insurance. In some Nassau County neighborhoods, including Elmont, Hempstead Village, Uniondale and Roosevelt, at least 20 percent

of the owners spent more than 50 percent of gross income on housing. And this scenario also occurred in the Suffolk neighborhoods of Wyandanch, North Amityville, North Bay Shore and Brentwood.

The study also found that one-third of tenants across Long Island paid more than 35 percent of household income in rent. In many neighborhoods—such as Central Islip, North Amityville, Wyandanch and Lawrence Village—about 40 percent of renters pay more than half their wages on shelter. Rental units account for about 19 percent of Nassau's housing stock and 18 percent of Suffolk's—low, compared with 38 percent of Westchester and 27 percent in Rockland.

But some Nassau neighborhoods, including Manorhaven, Hempstead Village, Great Neck Plaza, Long Beach and Glen Cove, have more than 40 percent of their housing units in rental apartments. And in Suffolk, Bay Shore and Patchogue both have high ratios of rental units to owner-occupied housing.

Elizabeth McCarthy, who grew up in Dix Hills and works at Canon USA's Lake Success offices in marketing, said at the news conference she's been struggling to find housing after graduating from Marist College in 1998. Earning about \$31,000 annually, she rented a studio apartment for \$900 per month in Bay Shore—but it was too costly. "I thought about leaving the area [Long Island]," She started looking for a house with her parents. "I was shocked to find that there was nothing out there, never mind anything in my price range." Eventually, she was able to buy a subsidizing affordable home through the Housing Partnership at the Highview, a complex in Huntington.

Kamer added that since the 2000 census, when the data were gathered, the affordable-housing crisis has most likely worsened.

Kamer said that many young workers, unable to afford housing here, are leaving. And many of these workers who have lower-paying jobs are essential to the Island's economy.

Suffolk County Executive Robert Gaffney said some towns are reluctant to build rental units or affordable housing, fearing that it will decrease the value of an area. But if employers don't have the labor force they'll need because young workers leave, they'll set up businesses elsewhere.

Among Margo's list of possible solutions is his call to get towns to allow for greater zoning flexibility, when developers put forward proposals for affordable-housing units. While many young people earn much more than their parents, he said, they are unable to afford a home. "It's the inversion of the American Dream," Margo said.

FEELING THE PINCH

Communities on Long Island with the highest percentages of homeowners spending more than 35 percent of their income on housing costs. Minimum 3,000 housing units.

1. Hempstead Village: 34.9 percent.
2. Elmont: 34.2 percent.
3. Brentwood: 31.1 percent.
4. Dix Hills: 30.0 percent.
5. Central Islip: 29.9 percent.
6. Copiague: 29.7 percent.
7. Bay Shore: 29.5 percent.
8. Franklin Square: 29.3 percent.
9. North Valley Stream: 29.3 percent.
10. Freeport: 28.8 percent.
11. East Islip: 28.7 percent.
12. Greenlawn: 27.9 percent.
13. Uniondale: 27.8 percent.
14. West Babylon: 27.5 percent.
15. Deer Park: 27.4 percent.
16. Ridge: 27.0 percent.
17. St. James: 25.9 percent.
18. Selden: 25.9 percent.
19. North Massapequa: 25.8 percent.
20. Glen Cove: 25.7 percent.

21. Lindenhurst: 25.7 percent.

22. Long Beach: 25.7 percent.

23. West Islip: 25.7 percent.

24. South Farmingdale: 25.6 percent.

25. Merrick: 25.5 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

RECOGNIZING THE LAO STUDENTS' MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE URGENT NEED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS IN LAOS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last month marked the third anniversary of the bloody intervention by Lao communist security forces against peaceful student demonstrators. In October of 1999, the communist regime in Vientiane sought to crush the Lao Students Movement for Democracy. I was recently honored to join with Laotian-American constituents and survivors of this brutal crackdown to speak at the Congressional Forum on Laos, which had a series of special events in the U.S. House of Representatives this year to mark the anniversary of this dark chapter in the history of Laos and the free world.

Mr. Speaker, my district is the home to many freedom-loving Lao-Americans as well as the Lao Students Movement for Democracy—whose members are comprised largely of the survivors of the pro-democracy movement in Laos in 1999. The students escaped the Lao communist regime to neighboring Thailand and then were admitted to the United States as refugees after the outpouring of concern by Laotian-Americans in the South King County area. Sadly, however, many of the Lao pro-democracy student leaders and their families still remain jailed in Laos and have disappeared into their horrific prison system. Amnesty International continues to raise concerns about their plight and the systemic torture that exists within the prisons and gulag system of Laos.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and thank the leaders of the Lao community for their steadfast efforts on behalf of freedom and democracy in Laos and for the hard work of all those involved in organizing the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos sessions held on September 17 and October 1st.

Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply concerned about the ongoing plight of the Lao students leaders and others who are still jailed in Laos for their political or religious beliefs, or simply because they are members of an ethnic minority like the Hmong people. I would urge my colleagues, therefore, to work toward helping to bring freedom, hope and human rights to Laos and its suffering people. We should remember those who are still persecuted and jailed in Laos, struggling for basic human rights and freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include into the RECORD the following news article from the Agence France Press ("Lao Exiles Demand Freedom for Imprisoned Comrades," July 18, 2002) regarding the Lao Students' efforts in Congress in Washington, DC:

Exiled dissidents have demanded the release of five colleagues who have disappeared

into the prison gulag in Laos, following unprecedented anti-Communist protests.

The Lao government is holding five of the eleven strong core leadership of the Lao Students for Democracy after it crushed surprise protests in the capital, Vientiane, in October 1999.

Six others, two of whom appeared at a U.S. Congressional forum devoted to their cause, on Wednesday, escaped to Thailand, before being granted political asylum by the United States.

"My colleagues are still in jail, they are asking for peace and justice for the Lao people, I would like them to be put on trial as soon as possible," said one of the leaders, Aly Chantala.

Another dissident leader Nouamkhan Khamphylavong added: "We still heard nothing about their fate since they were arrested."

Rights group Amnesty International has accused the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party of denying that the arrests even took place and of holding prisoners in cruel and degrading conditions.

Campaigners say the five student leaders were arrested, tortured and incarcerated by the Lao government in violation of the country's one year limit on detention without trial.

They want the United States and world financial bodies to withhold financial aid and make trade benefits for Laos conditional on improvements in its human rights record and the granting of political rights.

Some business groups and sectors of the U.S. administration have, however, been pushing for Laos to be granted normal trade relations with the United States, arguing that economic opening will trigger an easing of the political situation.

Wednesday's event in a Congressional building was part of an ongoing campaign to block the aspirations of the pro Laos-trade lobby.

HONORING THE EDUCATIONAL CAREER OF HULON WATSON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hulon Watson for an outstanding 44-year career in education. He has spent the last 5½ years helping my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, deal with a population explosion as the school superintendent for Rutherford County. Prior to that post, Hulon served 18 years as the principal of Murfreesboro's Riverdale High School.

But after more than four decades as an educator, Hulon has decided to retire and spend more time with his wife, Charlotte; their two children; and their four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Hulon's last official work day will be December 31 of this year.

Hulon began his career as a teacher and coach in nearby Winchester, Tennessee. After he moved to Murfreesboro in 1979 to take the principal's position at Riverdale High School, he began helping Rutherford County students achieve success. And when he took over the helm of the Rutherford County School System, he helped raise scholastic standards county-wide and guided a vigorous campaign to build much-needed schools.

Hulon did all this during a time when every penny counted. Rutherford County can now

count itself as among one of the best, most efficiently operated school systems in the entire nation. In years to come, Rutherford County residents will be able to see Hulon's legacy through their prosperity. I congratulate him for his efforts and accomplishments in providing Rutherford County children with an education second to none and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE MONMOUTH COUNCIL OF GIRL SCOUTS, INC. 2002 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. 2002 Women of Distinction honorees and their significant contributions to Central New Jersey.

For forty years, through its efforts, the Monmouth Council of Girl Scouts has served tens of thousands of young women across Central New Jersey. This year's women of Distinction honorees exhibit the altruistic ideals that our Nation needs now, more than ever. These ideals, no doubt grew from their involvement in Girl Scouts and the grounding principles of the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law which read as follows:

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try, to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do; And to, respect my self and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The 2002 Women of Distinction Honorees are Carole Robinson for her inspiring Girl Scout spirit, Anna Diaz-White and Paulette Roberts for their professional excellence and Sister Ellen Kelly for her dedication and service to our community. As we celebrate women's History Month, we honor each of these recipients for their hard work and dedication and we celebrate the legacy they have created for women and women's history in Central New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate, honor and command these outstanding New Jerseyans. I have personally observed the effective work of some of these honorees and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their invaluable contributions to our community and to New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of November being National Adoption Month. Every year, thousands of American families are blessed by

adoption. Whether through domestic or international adoption of children from foster care, the love of compassionate families embraces children of all ages and from every background. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the heartfelt commitment of these good citizens, and we renew our pledge to make adoption a more accessible and positive path for American families.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. We are making important progress in placing children in foster care with adoptive families, and the overall number of children being adopted continues to rise. In the past five years, adoptions have increased dramatically, and thus far in 2002, tens of thousands of children have already been adopted.

In addition, as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Adoption, I have worked to ease the financial burden on adoptive families and to ensure that more children find a caring, permanent home.

But with most adoption costs ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000 and even upwards of \$30,000, many families can not afford this huge expense. No child should be forced to grow up without a family because of the tremendous cost of adoption.

That's why I am proud that the President signed into law a bill I supported from its inception that provides for an Adoption Tax Credit for those who take this important step into parenthood. As part of the Economic Security and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, this provision will go a long way to making adoption more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, every child deserves a permanent, loving home and, with so many families who want to open their hearts and their homes to these children, this measure will help remove the financial barriers that may hinder this union.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents of the fourth Congressional district of New York, I, Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY, do hereby commend Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, the Nassau County Department of Social Services and the Nassau County's Surrogate's Court for finalizing the adoptions of thirty-two children from foster care.

HONORING VIRGINIA GAINES FOX

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, It is an honor to rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, a visionary, a dedicated public servant, and a Kentucky original. I speak of the inimitable Virginia Gaines Fox, president and CEO of Kentucky Educational Television, who is retiring next month after 42 years of service in public broadcasting.

Virginia Fox—or Ginni, as she is known by her friends and colleagues—has created a legacy of innovation, public service and the highest standards of excellence. Under her astute leadership, she has built KET into an industry leader. Kentucky Educational Television is the number one provider of adult education in America, providing thousands of broadcast hours of instructional programming to classrooms and hundreds of hours of professional

development resources to Kentucky's K-12 instructors. KET's GED on TV program has helped 11,400 adults in Kentucky—and literally millions more across the country—to earn their high school diploma.

KET is also leading the way in the industry's digital conversion, pioneering datacasting services for Kentucky communities in partnership with Federal, State and local agencies—particularly in the area of public safety, weather alerts, and homeland security. This initiative is serving as a model for similar efforts around the country.

Virginia Fox has been an innovator in distance learning throughout her prestigious career. She was a founding member of the congressionally-created Independent Television Service (ITVS) Board and created the first national ITV satellite schedule, serving more than 23 million students annually with distance learning curricula. She also founded the Satellite Educational Resources Consortium, the first public broadcasting/Department of Education interstate consortium for distance learning.

Virginia Fox's career is highlighted by numerous personal as well as professional accomplishments. She broke the glass ceiling by becoming the first female CEO of a national organization in public broadcasting. She has served on the board of the Public Broadcasting Service and chaired the Public Television Outreach Alliance. She received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Morehead State University, and earlier was named Appalachian Woman of the Year by that same institution. This year, she was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame and received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A seventh-generation Kentuckian, Virginia Fox proves once again that the great Commonwealth of Kentucky has an abundance of human resources. It has been my privilege to work with her during my tenure in Congress to ensure that America's children will continue to benefit from the finest educational programming available, and that they will enter formal schooling "Ready to Learn". She has demonstrated the power of television to educate, inform and inspire.

Mr. Speaker, the education of our children is one of our greatest responsibilities. Virginia Gaines Fox must be commended for her innovation, her vision, and her dedication to education. Her leadership will be sorely missed, but her retirement is richly deserved, and we wish her the very best that life has to offer.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE NETWORK

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know about an important education initiative that is currently under way in western Pennsylvania. This initiative is the School Performance Network, an organization dedicated to disseminating best practices in education to teachers, and to encouraging connections and shared resources among educators.

The School Performance Network today consists of 33 public school districts and 3 di-

ces from 14 different counties in western Pennsylvania. The organization's mission is to "assist schools and districts in the development and use of systems, tools, and practices that help educators improve learning." The SPN attempts to improve educational outcomes through the pursuit of "total performance."

Total performance is a phrase used to describe a philosophy espousing continuous effort to promote greater student learning and achievement. This approach focuses on setting high achievement standards and developing a curriculum that meets them. Total performance seeks to use these standards and performance data to modify teachers' instructional approaches. It also seeks to ensure that teachers and principals take full advantage of available resource like religious and civic organizations—and that they use the available resources strategically to maximize performance improvements. This approach also endeavors to establish a culture that supports collective effort and accountability. Finally, it emphasizes establishing partnerships to enhance and extend student learning opportunities.

The School Performance Network provides schools with access to research that highlights the best teaching methods, as well as to colleagues with similar goals and different experiences. This organization also brokers external partnerships and promotes Cooperative Learning Teams that collaborate across geographic and political boundaries.

The stimulus for this initiative came from the Heinz Endowments. This philanthropic institution recognized that isolation limited the ability of individual schools to improve student achievement. In the course of a 1996 program review of school efforts to promote "total performance," the Endowment's education staff, having made a number of grants to regional schools in order to improve education results, concluded that even greater progress could be made by promoting communication among these schools. The Endowment provided funding in 1998 to develop plans for establishing such a network. Subsequently, in early 2000, a pilot program consisting of 8 school districts was undertaken. Later that year, the pilot program was successfully concluded and the School Performance Network began expanding its membership.

I want to commend the Heinz Endowment for its vision in establishing the School Performance Network. I want to commend Dr. Mary Catherine Conroy Hayden for her leadership of the School Performance Network. And I want to thank the School Performance Network and its many partners for their efforts to improve the quality of education in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this regional collaborative effort holds tremendous potential for implementing education reform nation-wide. I urge my colleagues to explore the possibility of establishing similar efforts in their own communities.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT
JORGE QUIROGA RAMIREZ OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the co-chairmen of the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug Free America, want to recognize Jorge Quiroga Ramirez, former President of the Republic of Bolivia, for his years of steadfast support, commitment and leadership in the fight against illegal drugs.

Most of us first met Jorge Quiroga in the early days of the Administration of former President Hugo Banzer, when he served as Vice President of Bolivia. He came to Washington early on in his tenure to seek U.S. support and backing for Bolivia's "Dignity Plan"—a five year strategy to remove Bolivia from the international narcotics circuit. At the time he assumed office in August of 1997, Bolivia was the world's second largest producer of cocaine with nearly 113,000 acres of coca under cultivation.

The Dignity Plan that was presented to the U.S. Administration and the Congress was the product of a well-conceived political strategy designed to build domestic consensus within Bolivia against the drug trade. Late in 1997, civic, religious, labor, indigenous, private sector and political leaders met together under the leadership of then-Vice President Quiroga, in what was called the National Dialogue, a series of discussions and consensus-building meetings around four pillars: Opportunity (economic issues), Equity (social development), Integrity (institutional strengthening) and Dignity (fight against drugs). This last pillar, focused on how to move Bolivia out of the international drug trade circuit by 2002.

As a result, the Dignity Plan began its implementation by the end of 1997, with ambitious goals centered on four areas: Interdiction, Eradication, Alternative Development and Prevention.

We in Congress have occasionally heard foreign leaders make eloquent statements about their plans to reduce drug cultivation and work with the U.S. to end this scourge—plans that ultimately were not successful. Bolivia proved how such a program can be truly successful.

There were two things about the Dignity Plan that we found appealing. First, it was the product of an extensive discussion within Bolivian civil society, seeking to eliminate the drug trafficking stereotype for which this Andean country was known. Second, we found in Vice President Quiroga an honest and sincere individual whose commitment to Bolivia's future as a drug free country mirrored our own commitments here at home. Vice President Quiroga was precisely the kind of straight-talking, action-oriented leader that we believed was required to take real and meaningful action. A great many of us signed on to the Dignity Plan and did our best to provide political and financial support.

Over the past five years, as Vice President of Bolivia and later as President, Jorge Quiroga implemented the Dignity Plan with stunning success. This past August, President Quiroga turned over the Office to his democratically elected successor, the Honorable

Bonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. It is with great satisfaction we now take a look back at former President Quiroga's efforts and see how successful the Dignity Plan has been and what our investment in his vision earned.

Since the outset of the Dignity Plan in late 1997, the government of Bolivia has eradicated more than 130,000 acres of illegal coca.

The annual cocaine production in Bolivia has fallen by 70 percent.

In the past five years, nearly \$3.0 billion in Bolivian cocaine was taken off the international market.

Alternative development programs in the Chapare, Bolivia's primary coca growing region, have taken hold and are providing stable and meaningful income to former coca growers. Today there are more than 290,000 acres of legal agricultural crops under cultivation in the Chapare.

In these areas, family incomes are rising, proving that the transition to legal agricultural activity can be successful.

In the law enforcement area, nearly 5,000 coca base labs were seized and destroyed and over 58 metric tons of drugs, including cocaine base, cocaine and others, were seized.

I am pleased to report these results to Congress to show that with the proper combination of leadership and political will, the battle against illegal drugs can be won. I am hopeful and optimistic that the Honorable Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the new President of Bolivia, will pick up and continue where former President Quiroga left off, ensuring Bolivia remains a shining example of success in the Western Hemisphere.

Lastly, I wish to say thank you to President Quiroga, with whom many of us have worked so closely during the past five years. We have no doubt that his leadership, vision and commitment to Bolivia were essential to the remarkable success of the Dignity Plan program. He should take great pride in his extraordinary record of success in the drug war and know that he has many good friends in the U.S. Congress who are grateful.

H.R. 4546

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, as the House considers passage of the conference report to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, I would like to recognize the contributions of an outstanding member of the staff of the House Armed Services Committee. His name is George Withers. Of all of the people I have come to know in my 13 years on Capitol Hill, I can truly say that I have not met a finer person than George Withers.

As a professional staff member of the Armed Services Committee since 1993, I have had an opportunity to work closely with George. Over these many years, I have come to appreciate his knowledge of the legislative process, judgment, professionalism and wisdom.

Although he has a heart of gold, and a smile that is genuine as a sunrise, he was indeed mistaken for a very prominent elected official who is not known for his smile. One of

the highlights of George's career on Capitol Hill was when President George W. Bush, upon meeting him, noted his resemblance to the Vice President and remarked, "How's your heart?"

Around the world, there are likely many members of our nation's military who are watching this broadcast. George Withers was a Navy Aerographers Mate Third Class (AG3) with an Aircrew designation. He flew with VW-1 and VQ-1 flying WC-121 and EC-121 aircraft out of Danang during the Vietnam War. He also deployed and flew out of Agana, Guam; Cubi Point, Philippines; South Korea, and numerous other locations in the Western Pacific. A large number of those flights were electronic intercept missions over the Tonkin Gulf. During his distinguished service in the Navy, he earned the Bronze Star and completed 86 penetrations into the eye of typhoons as a typhoon-tracker.

George's service in Vietnam took place to the advent of the "all volunteer force". This was a time when folks often "had to be there" rather than "volunteered to be there". Since they had to be there, it was pretty obvious from those who were there that our nation didn't pay nearly enough attention to what they wanted their barracks or housing to look like, what there mess halls served for meals, or what they wanted in the way of recreational opportunities. George has spent the better part of his career on Capitol Hill correcting those mistakes, and seeing to it that they never happen again.

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, who are living in new quarters or work in new facilities, it has been made possible with the great assistance of George Withers. If you're in one of these new facilities in South Korea, Germany, Ecuador, Mississippi, or serving anywhere in the world, credit for the quality of your quarters is often given to a Congressman or a Senator. However, I know for a fact that none of these important quality of life improvements for our nation's military personnel could have happened without the dedication and hard work of a great American named George Withers.

George, on behalf of the men and women in uniform, your friends here on Capitol Hill, and the countless other people that you have helped throughout your many years of military and public service, thank you. God Bless you in your retirement. You will be sorely missed.

NATIONAL JOURNAL STORY, "BUSH'S QUIET PLAN"

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following National Journey story, "Bush's Quiet Plan," for the RECORD. It clearly describes how this administration is rolling back our key environmental protections.

[From the National Journal, Nov. 23, 2002]

BUSH'S QUIET PLAN

(By Margaret Kriz)

The Bush administration is quietly but systematically working to make the 32-year-old environmental law that's considered the Magna Carta of national environmental policy less of an impediment to development.

Environmentalists charge that, by routinely bypassing or greatly speeding up the preparation of environmental impact statements required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bush White House is chipping away at the very foundation of the Nation's environmental protections.

President Bush has taken steps aimed at expediting or even eliminating the environmental impact studies that federal regulators have long been required to conduct before any major development project—whether it involves a new dam by the Army Corps of Engineers or logging in a national forest—can be undertaken on federal property or with federal funds. Industry lobbyists applaud the administration's actions because, in their view, environmental impact statements have largely served as a weapon for anti-development zealots to wield in court.

Environmentalists contend that the administration's efforts to shorten the reach of the law known as NEPA are part of a continuing campaign to put resource development and business interests ahead of resource protection and environmental quality. "The Bush administration views NEPA as an obstacle, not a tool," says Sharon Buccino, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "To the extent that they're removing these activities, like logging projects, from the NEPA process, they're cutting the public out of the process."

NEPA is merely a full-disclosure statute: It forces regulators to make assessments and share them with the public, but it doesn't block projects that would harm the environment. Yet environmental groups have often been able to use the government's NEPA-mandated environmental impact statements in conjunction with the other environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Air Act, to persuade courts to stop or significantly modify controversial projects.

Under NEPA, all government agencies—from the Interior Department to the Navy to the Small Business Administration—must study the environmental implications of major projects before undertaking them. Private companies that receive federal funds or use federal lands also fall under NEPA's umbrella.

Business lobbyists cheer Bush for using his broad administrative authority to limit the public's ability to challenge industry projects on federal lands. Supporters of the administration's approach argue that environmentalists have abused NEPA by filing thousands of essentially nuisance lawsuits that stem from a philosophical objection to, say, drilling for oil on federal land, rather than from objections to the potential consequences of a specific drilling proposal.

"A lot of challenges being raised are part of a larger strategy to oppose energy development in this country," contends Lee Fuller, vice president for government relations at the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

NEPA's defenders charge that regulators are already producing slipshod impact assessments in their rush to comply with Bush administration demands for faster action. "Asking them to do [the assessments] more quickly raises more opportunity for litigation," because careless work would leave the government open to charges of not having complied with NEPA, warns Jonathan Adler, an environmental law professor at Case Western Reserve University.

The controversy over the accelerating attempts to rein in NEPA centers on several administration actions:

A Forest Service proposal—leaked by environmentalists and slated to be formally released later this year—would allow federal

regulators to rewrite National Forest Management Plans without first assessing the environmental implications of the new plans. Forest plans are the blueprints for commercial development, recreation, and land preservation on the nation's 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands.

Bush's wildfire proposal, dubbed the "Healthy Forests Initiative," would exempt 10 million acres of national forest lands from NEPA to speed up the logging aimed at thinning the trees in those forests. The plan was drafted in response to this summer's catastrophic forest fires and would allow commercial logging companies to remove some large, healthy trees as an incentive to participate in the thinning projects. The Democratic-controlled Senate blocked Bush's proposal, but the plan is certain to be resurrected after the Republicans take control of the chamber in January.

The administration tried to exempt most U.S.-controlled ocean waters from NEPA. But in October, a federal court rejected the Justice Department's contention that the environmental law's reach did not extend beyond this country's territorial waters, which end three miles offshore. The court ruled that NEPA applies within the nation's entire Exclusive Economic Zone, which extends 200 nautical miles offshore. That case was triggered by objections to Navy sonar tests, which environmentalists claim have caused whale beachings and permanent damage to whales and other sea mammals.

In September, Bush issued an executive order requiring federal regulators to speed up environmental assessments of transportation construction projects. Transportation Department officials say the administration is also considering legislation to amend the law's application to highway and other transportation projects. The administration has not taken a position, however, on a bill introduced this year by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, that would create a separate, less rigorous environmental-assessment process for transportation projects.

In May, Bush ordered expedited environmental reviews of energy-development projects. Meanwhile, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., has urged that NEPA requirements be waived for energy development on tribal lands.

According to Forest Service officials, the administration plans to greatly expand the "categorical exclusion" provisions of NEPA to exempt certain kinds of logging projects—the logging of dead trees in burned forests, for example—from environmental impact statements. These exemptions would apply to far more than the 10 million acres included in Bush's forest fire proposal.

Meanwhile, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which has jurisdiction over NEPA, has created an interagency task force focused on updating the NEPA process. James Connaughton, who heads the council, said the task force seeks to "modernize" the way federal regulators conduct their environmental reviews—by, for example, increasing the use of computers. Some departments, he said, "are using the Pony Express when we could be using the electron to facilitate all kinds of inter-agency and external communications."

Environmentalists are suspicious of the task force. "This administration," Buccino says, took "significant destructive actions related to NEPA before they had even begun the task force." Bush's critics contend that what the White House portrays as mere streamlining is actually part of a far-reaching campaign to grant polluters and developers relief from environmental safeguards by doing such things as easing restrictions

on coal-fired power plants and scuttling a Clinton-era rule that preserves roadless regions in the national forests. "They're saying, 'Trust us,' but we have no reason to trust them," says David Alberswerth, director of the Wilderness Society's Bureau of Land Management program.

Connaughton angrily denies that the administration wants to gut environmental protections and says the environmentalists' accusations are politically motivated. "I think that there is a lot of chasing after ghosts," he says. (For a Q&A with Connaughton, see p. 3476.)

OVERDUE OR OVERBOARD?

The Bush administration's aggressive efforts to limit NEPA's role represent a marked change in federal environmental policy—and in some quarters, a welcome one. "It represents a shift in the institutional perspective on NEPA," says Chris Horner, senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank. "They're saying that the statutory sprawl that NEPA has created is not acceptable. [The shift] is something that's long overdue."

But environmentalists are alarmed. Unlike the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act, which deal only with certain environmental issues, NEPA is a comprehensive tool that activists can use to force regulators—and, by extension, industry—to abide by a multitude of environmental laws.

"NEPA is a procedural statute that cuts across every environmental program," says William J. Snape III, chief counsel at Defenders of Wildlife. "So rather than announce that they're going to gut NEPA, the administration has decided that they're just going to do it on an individual-sector basis. That makes it difficult for us to piece [the administration's actions] all together."

Most environmental assessments are completed without a hitch. But projects that compete for space with wildlife and wilderness areas—logging, energy development, and military action on federal lands or waterways, as well as transportation construction projects—often rise red flags with environmental activists and nearby residents. Lengthy lawsuits often ensue.

Bush administration officials insist that they're not out to stop all environmental analyses or to propose a wholesale rewrite of the law. According to Connaughton, the aim is to speed up the environmental-assessment process and focus on the biggest projects. The administration also wants to stem the flood of legal challenges to what government officials want to do on federal lands.

"There's just too many lawsuits, just endless litigation," Bush told an Oregon audience in August in introducing his forest fire plan. "We want to make sure our citizens have the right to the courthouse. . . . But there's a fine balance between people expressing [themselves] and their opinions and using litigation to keep the United States of America from enacting commonsense forest policy."

Since its inception, NEPA has been largely defined by court rulings that give it teeth. NEPA was passed during the Nixon administration but floundered until President Carter's Council on Environmental Quality outlined a regulatory strategy for systematically complying with its mandates. Since then, each agency has developed its own NEPA rules designed to mesh with the laws the agency implements.

Until those ground rules were established—and even since then—judges often were the government officials who determined what a NEPA requirement meant in a given situation. "Court decisions were pouring out," recalls James Gustave Speth, who headed the

Council on Environmental Quality under President Carter and now is dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. "It was the first major federal environmental legislation. And it became extraordinarily powerful, primarily because of the courts."

Environmentalists, who filed many of those lawsuits, see NEPA as one of the best ways to force recalcitrant bureaucrats to weight—and disclose—the environmental consequences of their proposals. "The whole purpose of the law was to slow down the government juggernaut and to make public officials think long and hard before they take any action that could be harmful to the environment," notes John Echeverria, executive director of the Georgetown Environmental Policy Project. "There's no question that environmentalists have used NEPA to block projects that they thought were ill-advised and particularly harmful."

Conservatives and industry lobbyists, for their part, say NEPA causes delays that inflate the price tag of important business and government initiatives. The Transportation Department, for example, estimates that environmental impact statements for major highway projects take an average of four to five years to complete.

"Sometimes you feel a little bit like that small rodent in a maze, trying to complete all these reviews," complains Mary E. Peters, administrator of the Transportation Department's Federal Highway Administration.

But many observers insist that NEPA's foes vastly overstate the influence of NEPA reviews. "The great bulk of NEPA projects are changed in the NEPA process, but they're not, in the end, stopped," says Yale's Speth.

Environmentalists are not the only cause of delay. Government regulators often lack funding to undertake NEPA reviews quickly. The petroleum group's Fuller says that some oil companies, eager to begin work on new projects, have begun paying the government agencies to complete the required environmental assessments. "We've found that in order to get our permitting processes moving, the only way to do that is to provide private money," he explains. Federal officials still control the studies, he adds.

The environmental reviews are also hampered by bureaucratic resistance. Even after 32 years, some regulators still oppose having to consider the environmental implications of a project early in the planning stages, according to law professor Adler. "At a lot of agencies, their decision-making process does not incorporate the sorts of factors that NEPA asks them to look at," he says. "That's one of the reasons why agencies get into trouble with lawsuits," and Snowmobiles

In April, an internal review board at the Interior Department issued a scathing judgment criticizing the Bureau of Land Management for approving coal-bed methane extraction projects in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Interior's Board of Land Appeals ruled that the environmental yardstick that regulators used to assess the projects was woefully inadequate and failed to consider the "unique potential impacts" of the proposed extraction process.

Coal-bed methane extraction, first tested in the 1990s, involves draining salty water from coal seams to tap the methane gas trapped in the coal. The tainted liquid often pours onto nearby lands. But the bureau had approved the methane leases based on studies that looked solely at the environmental effects of entirely different projects—oil and natural gas drilling in the region.

In a separate case, a federal judge recently suspended a seismic exploration project near

Arches National Park at the urging of two environmental groups. The organizations charge that the government failed to examine the environmental impact that the heavy pounding of 30-ton "thumper trucks" would have if energy companies were allowed to use them in searching for oil deposits.

Environmentalists argue that regulators are doing slap-dash environmental analyses on these and other energy projects in response to increased administration pressure to open more federal lands to mining and drilling. "This administration is indicating that every square acre of land in the West ought to be open to oil and gas" says Snape of Defenders of Wildlife. "They don't care about environmental quality or the public. This is 'Energy über alles.'"

But perhaps the most dramatic NEPA developments are occurring at the Forest Service, where Bush administration officials are rewriting the rules for managing the nation's 153 national forests. In the past, developing a forest management plan, which spells out how a forest can be used, was considered to be a "major action" that required extensive environmental impact analysis under NEPA. Now Bush officials are working on a proposal that would give forest supervisors greater leeway to revise forest plans without having to conduct in-depth environmental studies.

Under the revised rules, full environmental reviews would continue to be required when industry groups sought permission to begin specific projects, such as logging or construction of new recreation facilities. But more general changes to the forest management plan might not require extensive study, according to Mark Rey, the Agriculture Department under-secretary for natural resources and environment who has authority over the Forest Service. "In the past, we were dealing with the first generation of a forest plan, and there was no question that an environmental impact statement was going to be required," he said. "What we're saying now is, it is not as clear that revising plans or amending them involves a need for a similar level of analysis, depending on the circumstances."

Rey cites the example of a forest supervisor considering changing a forest plan to allow more snowmobiles to be used in a forest. "If we're saying that we might accommodate a greater degree of snowmobile use but that we don't have enough information right now to decide where we're going to locate the trails, then we probably would acknowledge that this issue is under consideration," he said. "But we'd do an environmental impact statement when we're ready to lay out the trails."

Logging industry officials enthusiastically support the new approach, arguing that it makes more sense for regulators to focus their NEPA resources on industry development projects than on forest management plans. "Why would you do a full-blown analysis of how you're going to basically zone a forest and manage it, when the real rubber hits the road when you propose an action," said Chris West, vice president of the timber industry's American Forest Resource Council in Portland, Ore. But environmentalists say that Rey's proposals are purposely vague and confusing. They accuse him of attempting to create loopholes to allow forest supervisors to make sweeping changes in the way the forests would be used without gaining public input or examining the environmental consequences.

The Forest Service is also considering new proposals that would make it easier to approve some logging projects without having to assess the environmental impact of each project. Agency staffers are working on "categorical exclusions" that would pave the

way for quicker approval of forest-thinning projects and logging of dead and dying trees after forest fires. Those exclusions are similar to the president's forest proposal, which would exempt some national forest lands from NEPA. Environmentalists say they'll fight those changes.

THE LONG HAND OF NEPA

Bush officials are more than happy to share their anecdotes about NEPA reviews gone haywire. They point to the case of the little town of Stillwater, Minn., 13 miles east of St. Paul, which has spent 30 years trying to build a four-lane bridge over the St. Croix River.

Bridge proponents say the new structure is needed to replace a 70-year-old lift bridge, which is on National Register of Historic Places. City officials and local developers say they hope a new bridge would divert truck traffic away from historic downtown Stillwater and increase development in communities on both sides of the bridge.

"The mayor of Stillwater told me recently that sometimes you can't see the historic town for the semis lined up to go across the bridge," says Peters of the Transportation Department.

But the \$135 million project is opposed by environmental groups, who say the new bridge would damage wetlands and mar the bluffs that line the St. Croix River, which is a "wild and scenic river" protected by federal law. Environmentalists also assert that the project would accelerate urban sprawl from the Twin Cities area into western Wisconsin. Some of these concerns are shared by the National Park Service, which has jurisdiction over wild and scenic rivers.

Over the years, several environmental analyses of the proposed bridge have been completed, but no consensus about its impact has been reached. The Transportation Department is trying to break the deadlock by including the Stillwater Bridge project on its list of seven high-priority construction projects set for quick environmental review under the president's September executive order. The department plans to add more projects to its priority list in December.

Conservatives charge that the long hand of NEPA is increasingly reaching into unlikely government programs. Horner of the Competitive Enterprise Institute cites a recent lawsuit in which environmental groups and the city of Boulder, Colo., claimed that the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corp. violated NEPA when they gave developing countries more than \$32 billion for oil fields, pipelines, and coal-fired plants without first assessing the projects' contribution to global warming. Horner argues that as a result of the lawsuit, agencies could soon be pressured to consider global warming in their NEPA reviews. "You're talking about a tremendous new regulatory burden, which is going to cost you more time and money," he says.

Industry lobbyists see such delays and expanded use of NEPA as reason to dramatically scale back the environmental impact assessment process or eliminate it altogether. One industry group boldly suggested amending the law to bar national environmental groups from filing NEPA lawsuits.

In recent comments to the White House task force on NEPA, the Idaho Cattle Association recommended that NEPA lawsuits be limited to "individuals who have an economic stake in the outcome of a NEPA decision or those who are directly affected" by the project being reviewed. Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality says he disagrees with that proposal but understands the frustration of industry groups. "The procedural requirements of the law should not be deployed to wreak havoc," he argues.

But what the White House and industry see as abuse of the system, environmental activists see as their fundamental right to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent on projects that harm the air, water, wildlife, or wilderness. NEPA supporters say they fear that the environmental goals that NEPA was created to advance could be lost in the rush to speed up or eliminate environmental assessments and to restrict the public's ability to challenge their conclusions. As the Wilderness Society's Alberswerth puts it, "If you don't have judicial review, you have no guarantee that the [Bureau of Land Management] or any other agency will comply with the laws."

A TIME AND A PLAN TO TEACH PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to bring to my colleagues' attention, and to the attention of their constituents who may wish to get involved in peace education, the recently released United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.

The study is the result of successful collaboration between the Hague Appeal for Peace—a citizen's organization dedicated to reducing wars and armed conflict and promoting reconciliation and economic development—the Government of Mexico and the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs.

By working together—governments, civil society and the United Nations—the effort to sustain peace through education stands a greater chance of success.

Humankind's genius invented technological wonders in the last century that have made life more livable and longer for many. It also produced, and then governments used, the atomic bomb, and then perfected it to incomprehensible destructive capacity. We are discovering new pieces of information from direct participants about how close we came to a global nuclear exchange during the Cuban Missile crisis 40 years ago. And we are confronted with a new awareness of dangers that might arise with the use of weapons of mass destruction for terrorism.

Education alone is not a security blanket. It is not a guarantee for progressive thinking. Indeed, we have learned that young people being educated in some religious schools in the Middle East were being indoctrinated with hatred for the West and the United States.

However, in a democratic society, education is a tool for enlightenment. As H.G. Wells said in his 1921 work, *The Outline of History*, "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe." We would do well to heed his warning.

Fortunately, the complacency and lack of interest in questions of disarmament and non-proliferation, especially about extant nuclear dangers and solutions, is starting slowly to break down. During talk of war and inspections of weapons of mass destruction, we find ourselves in a teachable moment.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a time in history when it is critical to embrace the idea that peace, dialogue, and disarmament can and

should be taught in school and that it should be taught as an integral part of school curricula and programs in the United States and across the world. And there has emerged a plan to help educators learn how to teach peace.

A ten-country United Nations group of experts issued a study in October on the status of disarmament and non-proliferation education efforts world-wide, making a set of 34 recommendations to Governments, the UN, other international organizations, and civil society on how to improve peace and disarmament education as a means of fostering tolerance and a culture of non-violence.

It calls for a joint effort to revitalize disarmament education to empower young people through knowledge to help make the world a more peaceful place. Surely this is an idea that all of us in Congress, regardless of party or political persuasion, can support.

The Study is available on the United Nations Web site at <http://disarmament.un.org/education/index.html>, and I commend it to my colleagues for further reading. I am also enclosing several additional documents for the RECORD about the project for the benefit of my colleagues and their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share this information with my colleagues and I also appreciate the hard work that the Hague Appeal for Peace, the United Nations, and the Government of Mexico put into this exciting and important peace education project.

[From the Report of the Secretary-General, Aug. 30, 2002]

SECTION VIII. PROMOTION OF DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING: PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

All the following recommendations are important. They vary, however, in the resources required for their implementation, the pace with which they can be put in place and the amount of time needed before they yield significant results. Those recommendations with asterisks represent steps that can and should be taken rapidly and at a relatively low cost.

*1. Member States are encouraged to accord importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education and training in their programmes and policies, consistent with their national legislation and practices, taking into account present and future trends. They are also encouraged to use, designate or establish public advisory bodies, where appropriate, whose responsibilities include advising on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training practices. Member States are encouraged to share their experience in disarmament and non-proliferation education and training with other Member States, international organizations, civil society and the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

*2. Relevant United Nations offices and other international organizations and agencies should prepare, adapt and disseminate a wider range of user-friendly educational material on disarmament and non-proliferation. The current experience in this field should be tapped and existing educational material, including educational modules, resource books, guide and online programmes, should be tailored to the needs of individual countries, specific audiences or the international community at large.

*3. The United Nations and other international organizations should translate its disarmament and publications into all United Nations official languages and, when possible, into other languages for additional

dissemination. Upon request by the United Nations or relevant international organizations, Member States, academic and research institutions and NGOs are encouraged to support or assist in translating relevant materials.

4. The United Nations and other international organizations should increase their capacities to disseminate disarmament and non-proliferation education-related materials (print and audio-visual) more widely to all regions of the world. While strengthening existing distribution channels, they should explore new ones, such as cooperation with educational networks, teachers unions and curriculum committees as well as electrical access. Member States, local academic institutions, research centres and NGOs are also encouraged to assist in dissemination efforts. As it is essential to reach the local community level, channels of dissemination such as school libraries, gathering places, radio and television are highly recommended.

5. The Department of Disarmament Affairs should gather information about the involvement of regional and intergovernmental organizations in disarmament and non-proliferation education, training and data collection activities. The Department should examine ways to foster an exchange of experiences and regional perspectives to facilitate the development of disarmament and non-proliferation education programmes.

6. The Department of Disarmament Affairs should examine, accumulate and make public and easily accessible the different disarmament and non-proliferation curricula and programmes that States have developed for their formal school systems and university courses as well as for informal training.

7. UNU and UPEACE are encouraged to develop intensive postgraduate and other courses on disarmament and non-proliferation for representatives of all regions of the world, including government officials, legislators, military officers, NGOs, the media and students, working in cooperation with academic and non-governmental institutions that have expertise in designing and implementing such courses. UPEACE, in coordination with the Department of Disarmament Affairs, may wish to host seminars and workshops as well as to develop model university and school material.

8. Member States are encouraged to include parliamentarians and/or non-governmental advisers in delegations to United Nations disarmament-related meetings, taking into account national legislation and practices.

9. The Department of Disarmament Affairs and its regional centres, in cooperation with UNIDIR, UNU and UPEACE, are encouraged to establish a virtual library of reports of "lessons learned" on disarmament-related aspects of peace operations and make it available to both Governments and NGOs on a disarmament and non-proliferation online education resource site (see recommendations 25).

10. Municipal leaders, working with citizen groups, are encouraged to establish peace cities, as part of the UNESCO Cities for Peace network, through, for example, the creation of peace museums, peace parks, web sites and the production of booklets on peacemakers and peacemaking.

11. UNU and UPEACE are encouraged to provide assistance to those city councils and prefectures that are willing to host seminars on disarmament and non-proliferation issues for the media, academics, local and national politicians, trade union representatives, religious leaders and the wider public.

12. Religious leaders and institutions are encouraged to develop educational material promoting a culture of peace and disarmament.

*13. Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations and relevant international organizations, are encouraged to sponsor training, fellowships, and awareness programmes, on as wide a geographical basis as possible, for researchers, engineers, scientists and other academics in areas of particular relevance, but not limited to treaties and agreements on weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They are also encouraged to give special emphasis to training customs, licensing and law enforcement officers for the purpose of fulfilling international obligations of Member States in the disarmament and non-proliferation fields.

*14. The Department of Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with UNU and UPEACE, should be encouraged to organize a programme of training for educators and trainers in disarmament and non-proliferation. These programmes may be implemented cooperatively with international organizations such as IAEA, OPCW and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty Organization.

15. The Department of Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with UNESCO, UPEACE, UNIDIR and NGOs, should produce and maintain an updated international bibliography of reference literature for teachers, including an updated directory of peace studies programmes and disarmament and non-proliferation research centres, and make this available on a disarmament and non-proliferation online education resource site (see recommendation 25).

16. UNESCO IBE is encouraged to convene regional meetings with ministers of education, educational administrators and university presidents to discuss the issues involved in developing disarmament and non-proliferation education for primary, secondary and university students. The International Conference on Education is encouraged to devote one session of a future meeting to disarmament and non-proliferation education, for example, through a workshop on science and ethics.

*17. The United Nations, relevant international organizations, Member States, NGOs and research institutes should develop and strengthen programmes, workshops, fellowships and materials on disarmament and non-proliferation topics for journalists and media representatives in order to enhance their knowledge of these issues. Special attention should be paid to the development of programmes and materials designed for local media in post-conflict situations, as essential partners in the disarmament and non-proliferation education process.

18. Disarmament and non-proliferation educational materials developed by the United Nations, such as the Cyberschoolbus web site, should include complementary material on how parents can encourage attitudes of peace and non-violence. Efforts should also be made by educators, parents and the business community to devise and produce toys, computer games and videos that engender such attitudes.

19. Additional fellowships and scholarships should be provided for various target audiences by or through the Department of Disarmament Affairs (directly or through its regional centres), UPEACE, UNIDIR and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, among others. An important educational supplement to disarmament and non-proliferation classroom training should be on-the-job training, which may be conducted at the sites of international organizations, national governmental agencies, NGOs and research centres. Opportunities for such on-the-job training should be expanded.

*20. The United Nations, relevant international organizations, Member States, and

corporate and private donors are encouraged to provide assistance, including funds, educational material and equipment to NGOs in different regions of the world and to universities to establish or expand their disarmament and non-proliferation libraries with free and open public access to their resources. Member States should be encouraged to fund research institutes that focus on disarmament and non-proliferation and offer scholarships for advanced university students to carry out research on disarmament and non-proliferation and its pedagogy. The United Nations should make greater efforts to tap the financial resources of private enterprises in the fields of information and communications technology.

AMERICAN WILDLIFE
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, Early on the morning of November 15, 2002 the House of Representatives passed, by unanimous consent, S. 990, the American Wildlife Enhancement Act. This bill, which amends the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, is purported to improve the provisions relating to wildlife conservation and restoration programs. Had I been present when the House considered this legislation, I would have opposed the bill. I am concerned that as written this bill could undermine private property rights and impact state water rights. I am concerned that no hearings were held in the House and we never had time to consider the full implications of the bill. I am hopeful the bill does not make it to the President's desk this year. If this legislation is introduced next Congress, I will work with my colleagues to ensure the protection of private property and water rights.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2001

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly voted for H.R. 5005, the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

I say reluctantly because I have very strong objections to certain provisions contained in the bill which favor "special interests."

In particular, I am opposed to provisions in the bill that would protect pharmaceutical firms and other corporations from lawsuits. Gut our efforts to crack down on companies that move abroad to escape U.S. taxes. Provide protection against lawsuits for companies that have provided passenger and baggage screening in airports. Give the new homeland security secretary broad authority to protect companies that sell anti-terrorism technologies.

These provisions were inserted without consulting any Democratic leaders, and put in the bill literally in the middle of the night!

Mr. Speaker, I have a long and well-known record of fighting against provisions such as these.

These provisions were not in the original bill we passed earlier this year and I cannot understand why the Republican Caucus felt it necessary to include them in the most significant reorganization of the federal government in fifty years!

These provisions harm the average American by curtailing their legal rights to seek justice from corporations. Haven't we seen the dangers of allowing big business to operate this way?

The Senate was right in drawing national attention to this sham.

I am hopeful the Republican leadership will live up to its promise to remove these provisions early next Congress, but I fear they are already backing off their promise to do so.

Mr. Speaker, we desperately need a Department of Homeland Security, and that is why I voted for the bill. However, we do not need more give aways for corporate special interests, and I urge my GOP colleagues to move with great speed to remove the provisions early next session.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 333,
BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Conference Report for the "Bankruptcy Reform" bill, H.R. 333. This legislation will impose new restrictions to prevent working families facing financial misfortune from getting back on track. It also does nothing to stop the irresponsible and predatory practices of some businesses and credit card companies. I support efforts to prevent abuse of our bankruptcy system as a financial tool but this legislation goes too far in cutting off avenues to relief for working families who face unmanageable debt.

Central to this legislation is a new, inflexible "means test" that will be imposed on every individual filing for bankruptcy. While judges currently have the ability to determine the appropriate relief for consumers, this new "means test" will eliminate that flexibility and prevent all but the most impoverished families from filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 7. The implementation of this "means test" will also be a costly mandate on our bankruptcy court system, which is already operating on rudimentary funding.

I have listened to concerns of bankruptcy judges in my state of Minnesota who fundamentally oppose this legislation because of the disastrous effect it will have on working families facing financial crises. These judges echoed facts that are widely known—that the vast majority of individuals who file for bankruptcy are low- and moderate-income citizens facing crisis situations such as the loss of a job, medical emergencies or divorce. The actual number of individuals who try to "game the system" and escape debts by filing for bankruptcy is very low. According to one bankruptcy judge, abusive filings constitute only about 2–3 percent of all cases and bankruptcy courts are currently able to block about

95 percent of those "bad faith" filings by converting or dismissing certain cases.

This legislation would also have a negative impact on the availability of quality, affordable representation for families filing for bankruptcy. Provisions of this legislation would impose new liability standards on bankruptcy attorneys, making them responsible for the accuracy of all information given to them by their clients when filing a bankruptcy petition. Many attorneys will be apprehensive to continue representing clients in bankruptcy cases knowing that they may be sanctioned for inaccurate information. Bankruptcy lawyers in Minnesota have told me that this will severely decrease the number of attorneys willing to provide *pro bono* services, limiting the ability of low-income individuals to obtain quality legal representation.

I agree that something must be done to curb the number of personal bankruptcies that strain our banks, credit unions and responsible financial institutions. But we must be equitable in asking everyone—borrowers and lenders alike—to practice good financial planning. This unbalanced legislation unfairly targets consumers and allows irresponsible companies to continue extending credit to college students and others who are already deep in debt or have had a past history of bad credit. For the working families of Minnesota and the nation, I cannot support this legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1214,
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the Conference Report on S. 1214, which the House approved last week and is now ready for signature by the President. I would like to point out a particular concern that is addressed in Section 445 of the conference agreement. Section 445 addresses the current problem, and the potential for greater future problems, of local jurisdictions seeking to impose taxes and fees on vessels merely transiting or making innocent passage through navigable waters subject to the authority of the United States that are adjacent to the taxing community. We are seeing instances in which local communities are seeking to impose taxes or fees on vessels even where the vessel is not calling on, or landing, in the local community. These are cases where no passengers are disembarking, in the case of passenger vessels, or no cargo is being unloaded in the case of cargo vessels and where the vessels are not stopping for the purpose of receiving any other service offered by the port. In most instances, these types of taxes would not be allowed under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. Unfortunately, without a statutory clarification, the only means to determine whether the burden is an impermissible burden under the Constitution is to pursue years of litigation.

Section 445 of the Conference Report addresses this problem by clarifying the sole circumstances when a local jurisdiction may impose a tax or fee on vessels. Local governments, and other non-Federal interests, may

impose taxes or fees only under an existing exception under the Water Resources Development Act or under extremely limited circumstances in which reasonable fees can be charged on a fair and equitable basis for the cost of service actually rendered to the vessel. The fees must also enhance the safety and efficiency of interstate and foreign commerce and represent at most a "small burden" on interstate and foreign commerce. Generally, taxes will not be allowed under this section. The sole exceptions are stated in Section 445.

Mr. President, I support Section 445 as an important correction of a silence in current law that should not be allowed to imperil legitimate commerce.

E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, title V of H.R. 2458 incorporates the text of another bill that was recently reported out of the Government Reform Committee: H.R. 5212, the "Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002." I wish to thank the gentleman from Texas, Mr. TURNER, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, for including the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 in their bill.

On July 25, 2002, I introduced the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 on behalf of myself, as well as the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. SAWYER, and the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. MALONEY. The Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations, which I chair, held a

hearing on the bill on September 17. All witnesses—representing the statistical agencies, the Administration and the private sector—testified in favor of the bill. On the same day, the subcommittee approved the bill by voice vote.

On October 9, the full Committee on Government Reform approved the bill by voice vote and ordered it favorably reported. I want to briefly summarize this important legislation. The committee report on H.R. 5215 explains the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 in much greater detail.

Enactment of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 will greatly improve the efficiency and quality of Federal statistical activities. Right now, there is much duplication of effort among the Federal Government's three principal statistical agencies—the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Because of their inability to share data, they often collect the same data separately. This wastes taxpayer dollars and imposes unnecessary burdens on those who supply the data.

Furthermore, the inability of the agencies to compare the data they collect results in major disparities in the reports they issue. For example, during the last economic census in 1997, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported payroll data in the information technology sector that was 13 percent higher than the data reported by the Census Bureau. In addition, there was a 14 percent disparity in the payroll data reported by these two agencies for the motor freight, transportation and warehousing industries.

This legislation will allow the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to share business data they collect for statistical purposes. This data sharing will substantially enhance the accuracy of economic statistics by resolving serious reporting inconsistencies such as those that I just mentioned. It will also reduce

reporting burdens on the businesses that must now supply data separately to the individual agencies. I want to emphasize that the data sharing applies only to these three agencies, and it only applies to business data—not personal data.

Of equal importance, the bill ensures that the confidential data that citizens and businesses provide to federal agencies for statistical purposes are subject to uniform and rigorous statutory protections against unauthorized use. Currently, confidentiality protections vary among agencies and are often not based in law. The bill would provide uniformly high confidentiality standards that federal statistical agencies must follow. This part of the bill applies to all federal statistical agencies—not just the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis. Furthermore, it covers all data that all statistical agencies collect on a confidential basis—both business and personal data.

Finally, the bill includes language that will enhance the usefulness of statistical data for congressional decision-making. This language encourages the statistical agencies to provide the Congressional Budget Office with access to statistical data in order to help CBO analyze pension and health care financing issues. However, the bill does not expand CBO's current legal rights of access to statistical data. Thus, it does not permit disclosure of information to CBO in a manner of form that would constitute a violation of existing law.

Mr. Speaker, this worthy legislation has been years in the making. I sponsored a similar bill in 1999, but it encountered last minute concerns and was not enacted. The current bill resolves those concerns as well as all other issues that have been raised. The Administration strongly supports it, as do many individuals and organizations in industry and academic circles. I am delighted that the bill finally will be enacted this year.